

Safety Sense

Peace of Mind While Away



We all enjoy time away. Taking that family vacation to the beach, an excursion abroad, or a cross-country adventure provides a respite from the daily grind. When you're creating your trip to-do list and making sure you're packing everything you need, don't forget to include ensuring your home is secure.

As we do every day, your Paragon Alarm System will monitor your home while you're on vacation. A few days before you leave, call our Central Monitoring Station to let them know the dates you'll be away and who, if anyone, will be entering your home while you're gone – this assists our team as they monitor your home. Of course, when you leave make sure your Paragon Alarm System is armed for "Away." This will give you the added peace of mind knowing that our team is overseeing your security 24/7.

Your trip to-do list should include steps to make sure your home doesn't appear empty – this could open your home up to be targeted. The average burglar takes less than a minute to break into your home and an overall 8 to 12 minutes to get in and out. There are things you can do that can decrease your chances of a security breach while you're away.

Burglars look for 3 things when considering breaking in – low risk, ease of entry and opportunity. If you take these precautionary steps, you can reduce your risk.

- First and foremost, arm your security system and alert Central Station Monitoring of the dates you'll be away.
- Always lock all doors and windows.
- Close curtains and blinds to impair someone from looking inside your home.
- Never leave valuables in the line of sight from outside your home. If a burglar sees a valuable, like a laptop sitting on the table, they may look for an easy access to grab it and run before police arrive.
- Never, ever leave a spare key under a planter or door mat – don't make it easy for a burglar to access your home or see valuables that would be easy to grab.
- If you're away for more than a week, ensure your yard and landscaping are maintained so it looks like you're home.
- Set timers on lights to help simulate someone is in your home.
- Have a family member or trusted neighbor check in on your home, even if it's just the exterior. If they have access to enter your home, make sure the Central Station Monitoring has their contact information and assign them a password to cancel an alarm to minimize false alarms.
- Pause mail and package deliveries. You can have USPS hold your mail or have a neighbor pick it up every day, because an overflowing mailbox or packages on your porch for days is a clear indication that no one is home.

Check off these items of your trip to-do list and go enjoy your vacation knowing you've done all you can to keep your home and belongings safe while you're away.

