

# While You're Away

A guide to securing your home



The Collier County Sheriff's Office wants to help you secure your home before you head out on vacation or leave for the summer. Here are some tips:

- Stop or forward all mail, magazines and newspapers, or have someone collect them for you.
- Consider installing photocells on your exterior lights - as long as it doesn't violate any homeowner association rules. Photocells turn the lights on when it gets dark and off at daybreak. Put a few interior lights on timers to give your home that "lived-in" look. These devices are inexpensive and can be purchased at any hardware store.
- Let your neighbor park a car in your driveway and use your trash cans for collection to give your residence the appearance that someone is home.
- Secure patio furniture and outdoor decorations inside or in a storage unit.
- Consider installing an alarm system. Check with your homeowner association for rules governing alarm systems. Always make sure the alarm is in proper working order before you go on vacation or leave for the summer. Remember to call 239-793-9595 for information on registering your alarm with the CCSO False Alarm Bureau.
- Have someone you trust watch your home while you are away. Make sure they have your house key, alarm codes and emergency contact numbers.
- If your community or building has on-site security, make sure they know how/where to reach you should there be a problem.
- Before you leave, contact your local substation to inquire about a vacation watch for your home while you're away.

For more information about summer security, or to schedule a free home security survey, contact the Collier County Sheriff's Office Crime Prevention Section at 239-252-0700, or 239-252-9300 to contact your local Sheriff's substation.

Collier County Sheriff's Office  
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**Emergency 911** NON Emergency 252-9300  
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