



An Unoccupied Home –

*or one that appears
to be vacant - is*

an appealing target to a burglar. This is true during the workday when everyone is away for a few hours as well as for an extended period such as a business trip or family vacation. You can alleviate some worries and make your time away from home more enjoyable if you take a few simple steps to reduce the possibility that your home will be burglarized while you are gone.

You should always ensure all windows and doors are closed and locked any time you will be away from your home, even if it is for just a few minutes.

– Plano Police Department –

There Are Other Things To Consider...

Arrange with a trusted neighbor to watch your house. Give them a key and if necessary, alarm keypad instructions. Remind the key holder NOT to put your last name or address on your house key in case it falls into the wrong hands.

Make sure your key holder knows how to reach you in case there is an emergency at your home. The key holder should have your complete itinerary including trip address(es), dates, telephone number(s), flight information, and car make/color/registration. You should be able to contact your key holder if needed.



Arrange with your trusted neighbor to pick up and hold the mail, newspapers and handbills that are normally delivered to your home. As a last resort, notify your news carrier and post office to temporarily discontinue these deliveries. Keep in mind that the fewer people who know you will be gone, the better it is for you.

Arrange for the normal yard maintenance of having the grass cut, leaves raked, etc. If you have an automatic lawn sprinkler system, leave it on and set at its normal pattern. Cut your grass right before you leave.

Place all window blinds/curtains in their normal daytime position.

Set an electrical timer to turn lights on and off similar to your normal patterns. You may want to consider setting a timer on a radio or television.



Remove any valuables normally stored in your home and take them to a bank for storage in a safety deposit box. Any valuables you choose to leave behind should be engraved with your Texas driver's license number as part of Operation ID. A record of serial numbers and photos of valuables should be kept in a safe location different than the valuables themselves. This may assist the return of the items to you if they become stolen.

Set your thermostat so that your furnace or air conditioner continues to operate at a reasonable temperature.



Turn down the volume control on your telephone ringer and answering machine so that it cannot be heard from the outside. Do NOT change your outgoing message to indicate that you will be away.

Load suitcases into your car from within your closed garage. It will make your trip less conspicuous than loading from the street or driveway.

If you will be on a trip lasting several weeks, ask your trusted neighbor to utilize your trash bins and periodically park a car on your driveway.

Remove ladders, garden tools and other items from your yard that could be used by someone to help break into your home.



JUST PRIOR TO LEAVING:

- Check all windows and doors to ensure they are closed completely and locked to their fullest extent.
- Ensure your garage door is closed and locked.
- Walk around the outside of your home and ensure things appear normal.
- Close and lock your fence gate.
- You can arrange at no cost for a police officer to conduct a complete review of the security of your home. Call the Crime Prevention Unit and ask for a home security assessment.



HAVE A SAFE AND PLEASANT TRIP



For additional information please call the
Plano Police Department Crime Prevention Unit at

972-941-2431

- or visit the web -

www.planopolice.org/crimeprevention

PLANO POLICE SERVICES

Emergency	911
Non-Emergency	972-424-5678
Narcotics Tip Line	972-941-STOP
Red Light Runner	972-941-LITE

HEADQUARTERS

Plano Police Dept. 972-424-5678
909 14th Street
Plano, Texas 75074

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Desk Officer	972-941-2135
Jail	972-941-2142
Professional Standards	972-941-2436
Records	972-941-2019
Crime Prevention	972-941-2431
Media Information	972-941-2433
Court Information	972-941-2199
Alarms Information	972-941-2426
FASIL (Spanish Language)	972-941-2505
Fingerprint Information	972-941-2135
Criminal Investigation	972-941-2445
Crime Victim Liaison	972-941-2680
Traffic Enforcement	972-208-8055
Training Academy	972-941-2700



HOME SECURITY



While you are away.