

Vacation Home Checklist

A lot can happen to your vacation home while you're away. Use our vacation home maintenance checklist to secure your home from unexpected damages. That way, it will be ready to enjoy upon your return!

How to Close a Vacation Home for the Winter

Interior Prep

- Empty your refrigerator, unplug it and prop open the door.
- Remove food from the pantry.
- Clean ashes out of the fireplace, and close the chimney flue.
- Strip the bedsheets, or leave fresh sheets on all the beds.
- Ask your waste management company to hold service.
- Ask your local post office to forward mail.
- Check operation of the sump pump.
- Clean storm drains.
- Empty all the trash bins.
- Unplug phantom power loads such as TVs, appliances, etc.
- Turn off water – open all the faucets, showers and hose bibs in your home to drain the pipes after the main valve is shut off.
- Turn off the water heater – unplug it if it's electric; set it to vacation mode if it's gas.
- Set the thermostat to vacation mode, or set it to 50 degrees for heat and 80 degrees for AC.
- Turn off all the lights, and close the shades / drapes.
- Set any water alarms, light timers, cameras or home-away devices.
- Set mouse or pest traps, if desired.
- Lock all the doors and windows.

Exterior Prep

- Prepare the landscaping: Fertilize, prune, weed and clean the area to prepare for winter.
- Bring everything inside: patio furniture, lawn decorations, etc.
- Cover the grill and disconnect the propane.
- Drain and store garden hoses.
- Install storm windows if you have them.

How to Open a Vacation Home for the Summer

Interior Prep

- Turn the water back on: First, make sure all the spigots and faucets are open. Then turn the water on slowly.
- Turn on the water heater.
- Turn on the refrigerator.
- Empty mouse or pest traps.
- Adjust the thermostat.
- Change your HVAC air filters.
- Refill the water softener with salt.
- Dust and clean the house thoroughly.
- Clean the windows.
- Change burned-out light bulbs.
- Hire home services to spray bugs or do other big jobs you'd rather not start your summer with.

Exterior Prep

- Inspect landscaping for water erosion, damaged trees, pest problems and soil nutrition deficiencies.
- Clean the landscaping: Mow the grass, power wash hardscapes and prune bushes and trees.
- Return patio furniture, lawn decorations, etc. to their place.
- Inspect soffits, patios and your home's exterior for mold, rotting wood, peeling paint and other damage.

Technology makes it even easier.

- ⬇ Set a temperature alarm to automatically call your phone when the temperature changes.
- ⬇ Take advantage of remote cameras that can automatically notify you of movement or storm damage.
- ⬇ Use smart locks to lock and unlock your home remotely.

If you need help opening or closing your vacation home or fixing damages, just call Mr. Handyman. Our expert repairmen will keep your vacation home in great shape. We can power wash decks, repair drywall from a water leak or take care of any home maintenance tasks for you so you can enjoy your vacation! Just give us a call at (877) 685-1377, or request an appointment online.



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