

Queen's Park Trust

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Keep your Home Safe when Going on Holiday

To protect your home while on holiday, make it look occupied and lock everything down. Use plug-in timer-switches for lights, pause mail deliveries, and ask a trusted neighbour to collect post. Double-check all doors and windows and never leave valuables on display or post your holiday plans on social media.

Securing your home involves focusing on several key areas before you leave:

1. Make it Look Lived-In

- **Lighting:** Use automatic timer-switches or smart plugs to turn lamps on and off in different rooms during the evening.
- **Deliveries:** Cancel daily deliveries like milk or newspapers. If you live in the UK, you can use the [Royal Mail Keepsafe](#) service to hold your post for up to 66 days.
- **The Garden:** Cut the lawn before you leave and trim tall hedges that might provide a hiding spot for intruders.

2. Lock & Secure

- **Secure Exits:** Double lock all doors, close all windows, and secure your garage and side gates.
- **Hide Valuables:** Keep laptops, tablets, and spare keys out of sight from windows. Lock smaller, precious items in a heavy-duty safe.
- **Put Away Tools:** Lock away garden tools, ladders, and bins so they can't be used to climb into upper-story windows or smash locks.
- **Leave Curtains Open:** Closed curtains during the day are a glaring sign that a house is empty.

3. Smart Tech & Alarms

- **Set the Alarm:** Turn on your burglar alarm and make sure all motion sensors are active.
- **Cameras & Doorbells:** If you have smart cameras or a smart doorbell (such as Ring), check that they are connected to your phone's app.

4. Utilities & Maintenance

- **Appliances:** Unplug non-essential electronics to save energy and reduce fire hazards.
- **Water:** For long trips, you may want to shut off the main water supply to prevent unexpected leaks or burst pipes.
- **Heating:** In winter, leave your thermostat on a low setting (e.g., 12-15°C) to prevent pipes from freezing, rather than turning the heating completely off.

5. Social Media

- **Wait to Post:** Avoid sharing photos and details of your holiday on social media until you have returned to avoid advertising your empty home to opportunistic thieves.