



Snowbird Checklist for Leaving Home

The Complete 30-Step Guide to Protect Your Home While You're Away

Created using professional-grade preparation standards to help homeowners prevent damage, deter break-ins, and return to a pristine home after months away.

Home Security & Winterization

- Set the thermostat to at least 55°F and unplug unnecessary appliances.
- Check all locks, windows, doors, and set light/TV timers.
- Notify trusted neighbors or contacts of your absence.
- Secure valuables in a safe or safety deposit box.
- Reinforce exterior doors and secure all windows.
- Install or activate smart locks, cameras, or doorbells.
- Make the home appear lived-in with timers and mail forwarding.
- Secure outdoor areas, gutters, tools, and lighting.
- Enable smart home monitoring and alerts.
- Assign a trusted keyholder or property manager.

Pre-Departure Cleaning

- Deep clean the living room and kitchen; remove food and trash.
- Disinfect bedrooms and bathrooms; wash linens and plug drains.
- Clean laundry machines and leave the washer door open.
- Clean and secure outdoor spaces; store cushions and check drains.

Mail & Utilities Management

- Set up USPS mail hold or forwarding.
- Use a virtual mailbox if needed.
- Redirect or pause package deliveries.
- Notify utility companies of your absence.

- Enable automatic bill payments.
- Designate an emergency utility contact.

Finances & Legal Prep

- Set up banking alerts and review accounts.
- Review insurance policies and secure key documents.
- Arrange pet care and emergency instructions.

Vehicle & Travel Prep

- Prepare your vehicle for extended travel or storage.
- Organize air travel documents and emergency contacts.

Packing Essentials

- Pack versatile clothing for warm climates.
- Pack medications, tech, and personal essentials.

Final Walkthrough

- Complete final safety and system checks.
- Lock doors/windows and distribute keys.
- Take photos, shut off water if needed, and review the checklist.

Looking for a worry-free winter escape? Explore professionally managed snowbird rentals or let AvantStay manage your home while you're away.

Explore Homes or Partner with AvantStay → avantstay.com