



# 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.

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