

Merrillville Police Department
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Merrillville, In 46410
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Vacation Safety Tips

- Your vacation should be a pleasant experience for you and your family. Take a few simple steps to reduce the possibility of becoming a victim of a burglary or other criminal acts against your home. The time spent preparing your home for vacation could save you money later. Before you leave for your trip:
- Notify local police of the departure and return dates of your trip and provide the name and telephone number of a neighbor or relative to notify in the event of an emergency.
- Place a “vacation hold” on newspaper subscriptions, mail delivery and include the start and ending dates.
- Ask a neighbor to pick up newspapers and mail if the “vacation hold” was not followed. Ask them to remove throwaway papers and circulars from the doorway and mailbox.
- Place interior lights and a radio on timers to give the appearance that the home is occupied.
- Have front exterior lights on photocells that activate in the evening and shut off at daybreak.
- Notify neighbors of your absence and encourage them to contact the police regarding any suspicious activity at your home.
- Arrange to have the grass cut and watered, leaves raked and the sidewalk and driveway shoveled during the winter.
- Remove all tools, lawn implements, garbage cans and yard furniture to the garage, basement or shed.
- Unplug all non-essential electrical appliances such as computers, fans, televisions, irons, washer and dryers to avoid damage from electrical storms.
- Be sure the sump pump is functioning properly and free from debris to avoid basement flooding.

- Set the home thermostat at a reasonable temperature-85 degrees in the summer and 50 degrees in the winter.
- Make sure all entry points into the home are secure.
- Close the fireplace flue to prevent birds and animals from entering.
- If you have an alarm system, leave a current list of contacts with the alarm company in case of system activations. False alarms may be fined.
- Disconnect the electric garage door opener and lock the garage door.
- Be sure all vehicles left at home are locked and remove all valuables.