



# Going out of town this winter?



Prepare your home before you go!



## Appliances

Power down or disconnect appliances that are not needed during your absence.

This will reduce your electric bill & reduce the possibility of damage due to storms or power outages.



## Water Supply

Turn off the water supply to your home and open all faucets to drain them.

Leave one faucet open on the lowest level of the house to allow air and excess water to drain. This could prevent pipes from freezing in cold temperatures.



## Lights

Leave at least one light on inside your house to deter burglars. The light should be easily seen by anyone passing by.

Hallway lights usually do the trick, and if you don't have motion-sensor lights outside, leave a porch light on as well.



## Temperature

Set the temperature at 55°F or higher. This will keep the interior of the floor and wall cavities, where the water piping is likely located above freezing temperatures.

Keeping room and cabinet doors open also helps heat to circulate and warm the areas where pipes are located.



## Severe Weather

Arrange for someone to remove snow from your home's sidewalk if there is a snow storm.

Check with your county to see specific requirements but most counties require sidewalks cleared within 24 hours after it stops snowing.



## Water Heater

Set your water heater to its vacation or pilot setting, if applicable.

Unless you have someone visiting the house & will need warm water while you're gone, save energy by not leaving your water heater on its normal setting.



## Smoke Detectors

Make sure your smoke detectors are in working condition.

Smoke detectors are required in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level.



## Friend/Neighbor

Ask a trusted friend, neighbor or relative to keep an eye on your home and be available in emergency situations.

Give them access to your home so they can regularly monitor heating, electrical and water systems.