

Home Departure Timeline Checklist

Use this checklist to prepare your home before leaving for an extended period. Grouped by timeline so you can take care of everything in order – calmly, efficiently, and confidently.

1 Month Before Departure

- ☐ Schedule Home Watch service or caretaker visits.
- ☐ Arrange for lawn care, snow removal, or landscaping to continue while you're away.
- ☐ Schedule HVAC inspection or tune-up if due soon.
- ☐ Schedule any repairs or maintenance that need completion before leaving.
- ☐ Confirm or set up security system monitoring and access permissions.
- ☐ Check your homeowner's insurance coverage for unoccupied periods.
- ☐ Refill necessary prescription medications or household supplies.
- ☐ Arrange for mail hold or forwarding and cancel newspaper delivery.
- ☐ Notify trusted neighbors or HOA that you'll be away and who has access.
- ☐ Arrange snowbird services (pool, pest control, cleaning, etc.) as needed.
- ☐ Test or install smart sensors (temperature, water leak, etc.).

1 Week Before Departure

- ☐ Turn off and drain sprinkler system.
- ☐ Trim trees and shrubs away from siding and roof.
- ☐ Replace air filters and confirm vents are open.
- ☐ Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
- ☐ Verify outdoor lights and motion sensors are working.
- ☐ Clean gutters and downspouts.
- ☐ Secure patio furniture, umbrellas, and grills.
- ☐ Unplug unused electronics or appliances.
- ☐ Check HVAC settings: 60–65°F for winter, 78°F for summer.
- ☐ Confirm breakers are on for essential systems only (HVAC, sump pump, fridge, alarm).
- ☐ Confirm spare keys and entry codes are provided to caretaker or Home Watch.
- ☐ Walk through all windows and doors to ensure proper locking and sealing.

1–2 Days Before Departure

- ☐ Empty trash cans and dishwasher.
- ☐ Run garbage disposal with baking soda and vinegar; flush drains.
- ☐ Remove or freeze perishable foods.
- ☐ Clean refrigerator and wipe down kitchen counters.
- ☐ Wash and put away laundry.

- ☐ Set timers or smart plugs for lights.
- ☐ Leave blinds partially open to show normal lighting but block direct view.
- ☐ Unplug small electronics (toaster, coffee maker, TVs, etc.).
- ☐ Water indoor plants or set up self-watering planters.
- ☐ Top off vehicle fuel or charge EVs.
- ☐ Take photos of closed doors, windows, and stove if you want extra peace of mind.

Day of Departure

- ☐ Walk through entire home — listen for leaks or running water.
- ☐ Turn off main water supply (unless needed for sprinklers or indoor plants).
- ☐ Add RV antifreeze to toilets and traps if leaving during freezing months.
- ☐ Verify HVAC system is set correctly.
- ☐ Confirm alarm system is armed and functioning.
- ☐ Lock all doors and windows.
- ☐ Ensure garage doors are closed and side entries secured.
- ☐ Leave itinerary and contact info with your caretaker or Home Watch professional.
- ☐ Set outdoor lighting schedule or motion sensors.
- ☐ Relax and enjoy your time away knowing your home is secure.

Helpful Reminders

- ☐ Set thermostat to heat: 55–60°F or AC to: 78–82°F
- ☐ Turn off main water valve whenever possible.
- ☐ Review your insurance policy for unoccupied home requirements.
- ☐ Label main shut-offs (water, electric, gas) for quick access in emergencies.
- ☐ Store valuables and documents securely in a safe or offsite.

Peace of Mind While You're Away

As a professional house watch provider, we know how to spot the warning signs that others miss. Whether it's water leaks, HVAC issues, signs of entry, or pest activity, we'll inspect your home inside and out with trained eyes. Our scheduled visits include detailed visual assessments, immediate alerts if something seems off, and documentation to help you stay in control from anywhere. We also coordinate emergency repairs and provide seasonal open-and-close services to help your home transition through Denver's changing weather.

Call or text (720) 338-3103 or visit WatchMyDenverHome.com to schedule your service before departure.

We Deliver Peace Of Mind With Discretion And Expertise.