

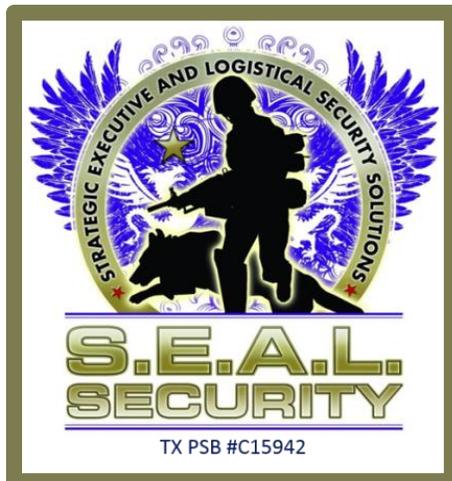
# Home Security While You Vacation

## Safety and Security Tips from S.E.A.L. Security Solutions

Oak Forest Hotline: **(832) 900-7017**

### Security While Away

Preparing your home before you leave on vacation can ensure the safety and security of your investment. This article includes several common, sometimes over-looked practices, that when put into place may prevent a break-in. Thieves look for easy access and hiding places when they choose a target.



*For a free courtesy watch of your property while you are away from home, please go to: [Vacationwatch.sealsecurity.com](http://Vacationwatch.sealsecurity.com) and fill out the form. Forms can not be submitted from a mobile device.*

### Mail

An overfilled mailbox is a signal that you're away. Ask a friend to empty your mailbox and keep your porch clear of packages and fliers.

### Decal Decoy

Thieves look for an easy mark; making your home tough to crack will encourage them to move on. You can easily put up security system decals—a clear deterrent—even if you don't have a system.

### Home Automation Tricks

Putting some smart light bulbs in street-facing lamps or installing smart curtains lets you control them all via app while you're away. Put them on a random schedule to make it look like someone's always home.

### Give Shrubs a Trim

Overgrown foliage tells thieves they'll have less chance of being seen while they work. Cut back those branches so it's not so easy for burglars to hide.

### Light Things Up

Exterior lights on motion sensors make it hard for a crook to avoid being spotted. Plus, when the lights come on, they may think someone is watching.

### Lock Down

Often a crook isn't even breaking in, just taking advantage of a door left unlocked. Smart locks that automatically lock behind themselves mean that's never an option.

## Keep an Eye on Things

Thanks to relatively inexpensive DIY systems, you can install a security camera outside (or inside) that lets burglars know you're watching their every move.

## Don't Advertise

Tempting as it is to advertise your dream vacation in real time, that's also a sure way to tell the world you're away from home. Resist, and post about the trip once you've returned.

## Install Window Stops

These prevent windows from being opened more than six inches—perfect for ventilation, but not for a criminal who wants to slip inside.

## Get to Know Your Neighbors

Neighbors can look out for your house and make sure nothing appears awry while you're away.

## Fill Your Trash

Thieves have been known to watch on trash days, to see which houses aren't putting anything out (because it means the occupants are likely away). Asking a neighbor to occasionally put out your trash ensures that no one will notice the garbage has been missing.

## Get a Fake Fido

A "Beware of Dog" sign or a bowl and chain by your back door can be enough to scare off the bad (even if you don't really have a dog).

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