



## How to Prepare Your Home for Your Absence

*When you leave your home for extended periods, there are precautions you should take before you leave.*

• **A #1** We will shut off water to the house at the main shutoff valve, not the meter. **Please make sure the automatic watering systems (pool fill, plants, yard and etc.) receive water from a feed prior to the house shut-off valve.**

• Have your mail forwarded or arrange for us to pick it up and forward it.

### **Batteries**

- Change the batteries in your smoke detectors.
- Change the battery in your irrigation control timer.
- If your thermostat has a battery, replace it with a fresh one.

### **Utilities and Electronics**

- Set the thermostat to Auto; Set A/C between 85° and 90°; Heat 55 to 60°. If you have a programmable thermostat, you need to reset all the programs to the new temperatures or in the middle of the day you may be cooling an empty house to 70°.
- Your A/C should be left no higher than 85 if you have blinds or thin drapes; 90° seems to be fine for houses with shutters. Change your A/C filters.
- Turn off gas to dryer, kiva, BBQ and/or fireplace.
- Prior to leaving, turn off all remote controlled devices such as overhead fans, light fixtures and stereos using the hard-wired wall switch instead of the remote. A power failure will turn the device on again.

### **Protect Your Stuff**

- Set up adequate surge protection for appliances and electronics that are inaccessible or must be left on.
- If you choose to leave your refrigerator on, we recommend removing meat & fruit from the freezer and removing any products containing garlic.
- Put decorative candles in the refrigerator.
- Remove ink jet printing cartridges, place in zip lock bag and store in refrigerator.
- We recommend moisturizing wood cabinets and furniture once a year with lemon oil. Similarly, use an appropriate moisturizer on leather furniture.
- Golf cart: check the terminals for corrosion and clean the affected areas; tighten all connections and be sure the cart is charging fully each cycle.
- If you're leaving a car behind invest in a trickle charger or disconnect the battery.

### **Protect Your Asset**

- We recommend having flat roofs inspected every four years.
- Have your trees trimmed and especially thinned. The high winds during monsoon season are less likely to do damage if the trees are pruned.

### **Patio/Water Feature/Spa**

- Cover your grill and take in your outdoor furniture.
- Remove all hanging ornamentation (wind chimes, etc.) from patio area.
- Stake all drip lines and emitters into pots securely.
- Leave chemicals/tablets that Welcome Home will need for service in a sheltered patio area.
- We recommend putting another cover over insulated spa covers to protect from sun damage. Sun blocked drapery fabric holds up year after year.

### **Convenience--Yours and Ours**

- Leave out spare light bulbs, landscape bulbs and 9 volt batteries in case Welcome Home needs to replace one.
- Notify your landscaper and pool service company that you have someone checking your home.
- If you choose to sign up with the free Patrol service, notify them now and give them our name as a local contact.
- Call Welcome Home Residential Services a few weeks prior to your departure to set up service.
- Notify neighbor/s that we are checking your house and to contact us if they detect a problem
- Please take your house key with you!