

SECURE YOUR HOME WHILE YOU'RE AWAY

The Monmouth County Association of Realtors (MCAR) suggests the following tips to help homeowners keep their home safe and property secure while traveling:

- Lock all doors and windows
- Have multiple lights set on timers
- Arrange for a neighbor to pick up mail and newspapers daily or stop them until you return.
- Make plans to have the lawn mowed.
- Do not change the home answering machine message to indicate you are away
- Ask a neighbor to bring out the garbage cans on garbage night.
- Use a business address or an alternative address on luggage tags. Listing a home address could potentially provide a thief with the location of an unoccupied home.
- Unplug the garage door opener.
- Leave the blinds and shades in their normal position.

“Just because you leave the house to go on vacation, it shouldn’t be defenseless,” said Ellen Kale, president of MCAR.” Making it look like you never left will help keep your house and belongings safe.” By following a few simple steps and preparing ahead of time, you can relax and have fun knowing you have helped to ensure your home doesn’t become a target for burglary.” (From *Asbury Park Press*)