

Pre-Vacation Checklist

✓ Financial & Travel Preparations

- ☐ **Check your balance and set up automatic bill payments** – Prevents missed payments while you're away.
- ☐ **Notify your bank & credit card company your go abroad** – Avoids flagged transactions or card freezes while traveling.
- ☐ **Make copies of important documents** – Keep a digital and physical copy of your passport, ID, and itinerary.
- ☐ **Check your travel insurance coverage** – Ensure your policy is active in case of emergencies.

✓ Kitchen Preparation

- ☐ **Clean out the fridge** – Remove perishable items that may spoil while you're away.
- ☐ **Clean off kitchen counters** – Wipe down surfaces to avoid attracting pests.
- ☐ **Empty the dishwasher** – Prevent mold and bad odors by ensuring it's empty and dry.
- ☐ **Rinse the garbage disposal** – Run a mix of vinegar and baking soda or lemon peels to prevent bad smells.
- ☐ **Check that the oven is off** – Ensure it is completely turned off to prevent unnecessary energy consumption and potential hazards.

✓ Laundry & Trash

- ☐ **Check laundry** – Ensure no wet clothes are left in the washer, as they can develop mildew.
- ☐ **Take out the trash** – Empty all trash cans to prevent odors and pests.

✓ Electronics & Utilities

- ☐ **Unplug electronics** – Reduce energy waste and protect devices from power surges.
- ☐ **Take care of water** – Turn off water valves if leaving for an extended time to prevent leaks.
- ☐ **Take care of plants** – Water them or arrange for someone to care for them.

✓ Safety & Security

- ☐ **Check smoke detectors** – Ensure they are working properly for fire safety.
- ☐ **Set thermostat** – Adjust to an energy-efficient temperature to save on electricity.
- ☐ **Hide valuable items** – Securely store jewelry, important documents, and other valuable possessions to prevent theft.
- ☐ **Pause mail** – Stop mail delivery or ask someone to collect it to prevent an overflowing mailbox.
- ☐ **Put lights on a timer** – Use smart plugs or timers to give the appearance that someone is home.
- ☐ **Check all doors/windows are locked** – Secure all entry points to prevent break-ins.
- ☐ **Test home security cameras** – Ensure all cameras are working properly if you have a surveillance system.
- ☐ **Set the alarm** – Activate any home security systems for added protection.

✓ Communication & Assistance

- ☐ **Alert a friend or family member** – Let them know your travel plans in case of an emergency.
- ☐ **Hire a house sitter?** – Consider having someone stay at your home to care for pets, plants, or security.