

THINGS TO DO BEFORE LEAVING ON A TRIP

Travel preparation

- Renew/check passport
- Reconfirm/check-in online with airline
- Check flight info for airline & times
- Check baggage weights
- Personalize luggage
- Insurance: Trip cancellation/medical
- Change money
- Check local destination weather/news
- Arrange drop-off/pick-up
- Get your air miles in advance
- Order special air meals
- Arrange child care
- Arrange care of pets, lawn & plants
- Advise bank of future foreign credit card use
- Install or recharge batteries
- Transfer music to MP3 player
- Leave itineraries with a relative
- Setup auto e-mail response
- Clear answering machine
- Buy/recharge phone card

Home preparation

- Pay bills/rent/utilities
- Forward or hold mail/newspapers/magazines
- Wash clothing
- Empty fridge of perishables
- Empty trash
- Empty dishwasher
- Store valuables in a safe place
- Turn off heater/air conditioner
- Lock all doors and windows
- Unplug electronics
- Clean home
- Shut-off your house's main water valve
- Leave house key and trip itinerary with a neighbour/friend
- Cut hair
- Remove unwanted body hair
- Get a manicure/pedicure
- Visit doctor/dentist
- Make your home seem lived-in while away by putting lights and a radio on timers
- Set Tivo to record TV shows when away
- Take photos of belongings
- Prepare/update will