

Before Leaving for Your Trip, Be Sure Your Home is Safe



Replace Your Porch Light

The one light you want to leave burning the entire time you're gone is the porch light. That means you need it not to burn out. Put a new bulb in before you leave to avoid this.

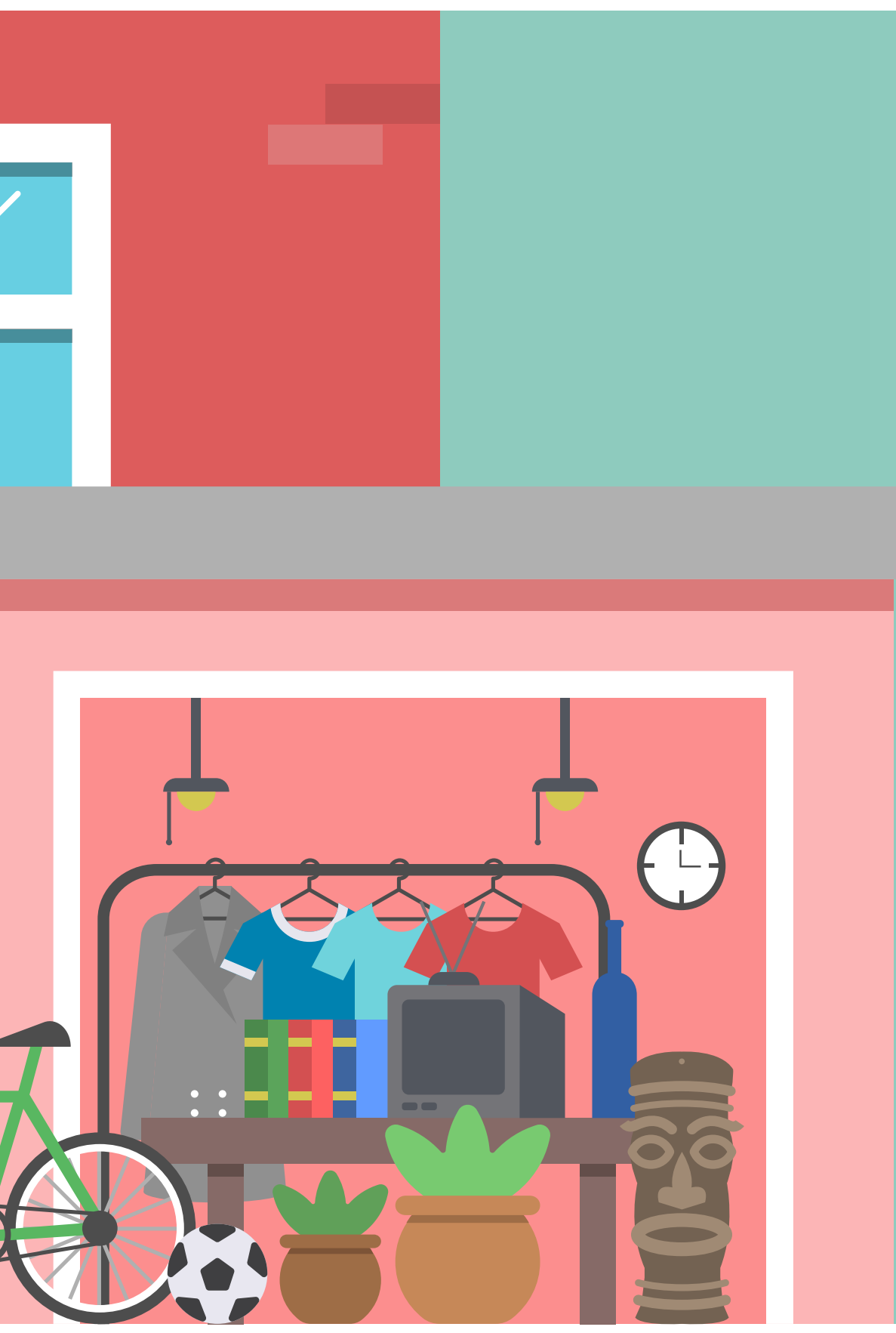
Put Inner Lights on a Timer

Other than your front porch, it looks odd to leave lights on all night long while you're away. In fact, this can be more of a giveaway to burglars that you aren't home, so don't do it. If you really want to leave lights on inside, put them on a timer to turn on and off at usual hours. Timers can be purchased for as little as \$30 at a local hardware store.



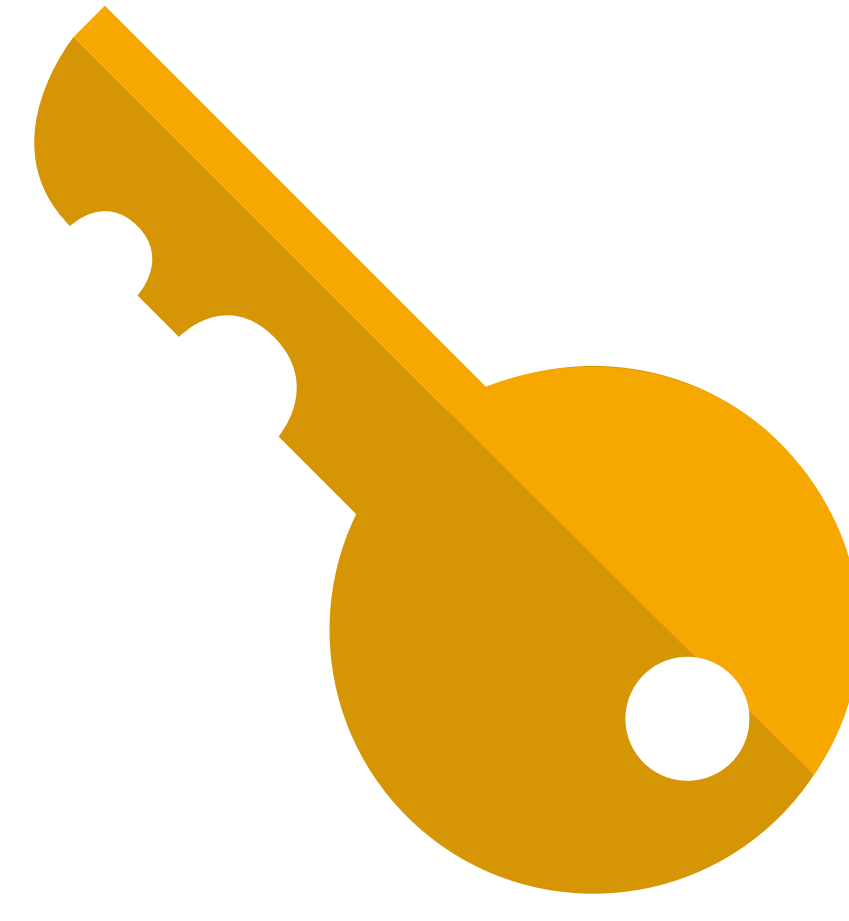
Don't Forget the Garage

If possible, remove garage door openers from any cars (even those in the garage) and relocate them to a safe place inside. If your car is broken into, don't make it worse by giving criminals access to your house. It's also recommended to lock the interior door from the garage into the house (just remember to bring the key with you).



Put Your Hide-a-Key Inside

There's no sense in leaving an extra key around while you're not there to use it, so don't.



Ask the Post Office to Hold Your Mail

Mail piling up is a dead giveaway, so either ask the USPS to hold your mail while you're away, or task a friend or neighbor with picking it up.



Hide Valuable Items

In the event that your home is broken into, you don't want to make it easy for the burglars. Hide your valuable items, ideally in a safe or locking file cabinet.



Check Your Homeowners Insurance

Just in case your home is damaged or broken into, are you sure that all of your belongings are covered? Review your Florida homeowners insurance policy to make sure and add additional coverages where necessary. Talking to an agent is your best bet.



Give a Trusted Person a Key

Someone should have a key to your home at all times. Choose a friend, family member or neighbor who has been to your house before, and give them a key, your contact information and your plans.



Brought to you by:

