

2026 Lock-and-Leave Checklist

Your complete pre-departure guide

Lock the door. Grab your passport. Go. — Use this checklist every time you leave for the season.

1 HOME SECURITY & SAFETY

- ☐ Lock all doors and windows
- ☐ Set alarm system / notify monitoring company of travel dates
- ☐ Leave a key with a trusted neighbor or building management
- ☐ Set interior lights on timers
 - randomized schedule looks more natural
- ☐ Unplug non-essential electronics
 - reduces fire risk and phantom draw
- ☐ Turn water heater to vacation mode or minimum setting
- ☐ Shut off main water supply (if no one checking in)
- ☐ Set thermostat to 55°F minimum
 - prevents pipe freeze in Minnesota winters
- ☐ Notify local police non-emergency line of extended absence

2 MAIL, PACKAGES & COMMUNICATIONS

- ☐ Set USPS mail hold or forward at usps.com
- ☐ Notify regular delivery services (Amazon, prescriptions, newspapers)
- ☐ Pause or forward any subscription boxes
- ☐ Update billing address for time-sensitive statements
- ☐ Set email auto-reply if needed
- ☐ Confirm cell plan works at destination
 - check international coverage if applicable

3 FINANCES & BILLS

- ☐ Set up autopay for mortgage, utilities, and HOA / co-op fee
- ☐ Notify bank and credit cards of travel destination and dates
- ☐ Confirm sufficient funds for all auto-payments

- ☐ Download banking apps for mobile access
- ☐ Scan and store copies of important documents in cloud or email

4 VEHICLE & PROPERTY

- ☐ Arrange snow removal / lawn care service
- ☐ Arrange for someone to check on the property every 2 weeks
- ☐ Store vehicle properly or arrange airport parking
- ☐ Leave emergency contact info with a neighbor
- ☐ Document current condition of home with photos

5 HEALTH & PRESCRIPTIONS

- ☐ Fill all prescriptions for full travel period plus 2-week buffer
- ☐ Notify doctors of travel dates and destination
- ☐ Confirm health insurance coverage at destination
- ☐ Pack emergency medical information card

6 IF YOU LIVE IN A SENIOR COOPERATIVE

Co-op residents: most of this checklist is handled for you by on-site management.

- ☐ Notify management office of travel dates
- ☐ Confirm package acceptance arrangements with front desk
- ☐ Confirm monthly fee is on autopay
- ☐ Leave emergency contact with management
- ☐ That's it. Lock the door and go.

Ready to make every departure this easy?

Senior Cooperative living means this checklist gets shorter every year — until it's just one step: lock the door.

Browse Minnesota communities: seniorcooperatives.com/minnesota