

BEFORE YOU LEAVE UP NORTH

Seasonal Home Departure Checklist

A little preparation can prevent a small issue from becoming a major problem while your Northern Michigan home is unoccupied. Use this checklist before you leave, then arrange regular Home Watch visits for added peace of mind.

1 Secure the Home

- ☐ Lock and check exterior doors, windows, sliders, and garage access.
- ☐ Arm and test the alarm or camera system, if applicable.
- ☐ Pause or forward mail and deliveries.
- ☐ Store valuables and spare keys out of sight.
- ☐ Provide Northbound with current access instructions and emergency contacts.

2 Protect Utilities & Plumbing

- ☐ Keep heat on during freezing weather and set the thermostat appropriately.
- ☐ Follow your plumber or insurer's guidance for water shutoff and winterization.
- ☐ Check visible plumbing, water heater, and sump-pump areas before leaving.
- ☐ Unplug nonessential electronics and confirm critical devices have power.

3 Clean & Prep the Interior

- ☐ Remove perishables and take out all trash.
- ☐ Clean food residue from counters, sinks, and appliances.
- ☐ Run and empty the dishwasher; dry damp towels and linens.
- ☐ Leave interior doors positioned to support airflow where appropriate.

4 Reduce Pest Risks

- ☐ Store pantry items and pet food in sealed containers.
- ☐ Look for obvious gaps, damaged screens, or other entry points.
- ☐ Remove food sources and address known rodent or insect activity.

5 Prepare the Exterior

- ☐ Secure or store patio furniture, grills, decorations, and loose items.
- ☐ Clear gutters, drains, and obvious debris before snow season.
- ☐ Arrange snow removal, landscaping, or other seasonal services.
- ☐ Check exterior lights and visible entry points.

6 Final Walkthrough

- ☐ Recheck doors, windows, garage doors, and alarm status.
- ☐ Photograph key areas and note the home's condition before departure.
- ☐ Confirm appliances, faucets, and other items are left as intended.

7 Emergency & Home Watch Prep

- ☐ Share emergency contacts, service providers, and special property instructions.
- ☐ Confirm insurance requirements for an unoccupied or seasonal residence.
- ☐ Schedule recurring Northbound Home Watch visits while you're away.

Leave with confidence.

Your eyes up north while you're away.

northboundhomewatch.com

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