

Ongoing to be Prepared

- Take photos or video of both the inside and outside of your home and vehicles. Take important insurance documents with you when you leave.
- While away, your home should be checked at least once a week. An air conditioner that quits at the height of summer could be a bad situation! An unattended leak could cause significant damage!
- Prepare an informational packet. Duplicate the package. Leave one copy here for those looking after your home. Take a copy with you.
 - Make a list of contact information (names, phone numbers, etc.) of everyone who has keys to your home or who you may need to contact. This list should include: homeowner associations, property managers, friends, family and neighbors.
 - Make a list of all the companies and/or people that service your home. These include alarm/security companies (don't forget the code and password!), air conditioning, cleaning service, electrician, plumber, lawn maintenance, pest control and your handyman. Then, attach copies of contracts you have with these companies to your list.
 - Document all the settings of your home, including air conditioning and humidistat, light timers, sprinkler systems, etc. If your home loses power for an extended period, timers will need to be reset. Don't forget to have timers adjusted with the changing sunrise and sunset times and daylight's savings time.
- Change all batteries and purchase backups where applicable: smoke detectors, sprinkler system, thermostat /humidistat, alarm (main and key pads). Make available additional batteries for the person monitoring your home.
- Inspect all plumbing fixtures and address potential issues before you depart. p
- Ensure the security of your home by checking all windows and doors for defects.
- Leave all interior doors open, as well as crack dresser drawers. Put dryer sheets in closets and drawers.

Few Days Prior to Departure:

- Alert office that you are leaving and give estimated time of return. Give office name and phone number of person who has keys to your house. Make sure Resident Information form is up to date.
- Stuff steel wool or other spray foam in any small openings under your sinks where water pipes come through the floor to prevent bugs and mice from coming into your house.
- Outside the home: be sure to bring in all furniture, grill, garbage and recycling cans, all outside decorations, bikes and mower to your lanai or shed. Place golf cart into corner of carport closest to house.
- Check your sprinkler system. To avoid high water bills, make sure the timer is working properly, and is set for only one (A) program. If you don't have a battery backed up system, and the electricity goes off at some point, your watering times will be off.
- Cancel cable, newspaper and garbage service. Fill out form at Post Office to forward mail. Garbage Service needs to be cancelled 24 hours prior final pickup by notifying Advanced Disposal at 352-527-9160.
- Place a bowl of kitty litter or charcoal in every room and in lanai and shed. Can also use "damp rid".
- New furnace filter.
- To find a shelter call the Citrus County Storm Management at 352-746-6555
- Create and practice an evacuation plan with members of your household.
- Find out about your community's hurricane response plan. Plan routes to local shelters, register family members with special needs and make plans for your pets.
- Download an app on your Apple or Android phone for access to NOAA radio. Listen to NOAA weather radio for critical information from the National Weather Service.
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Day of Departure

- Electrical issues: Due to power surges, unplug electric from the wall and cable on TV. Unplug your phones, computer, router, modem, ham radio etc.
- Put 1/4 cup vegetable oil to garbage disposal. Put a Ziplock bag filled with water on both sides of sink.
- Put 1/8 cup of mineral oil to bathroom sinks and showers. Put a Ziplock bag filled with water to all bathroom drains.
- Flush all toilets and run all faucets. Put 1/4 cup of mineral oil to toilets, wrap with and saran wrap, seats down.
- Turn off H2O outside from under your house, not at the street. Shutting off at the street in most cases will shut off your irrigation system. Once your water has been shut off, open a faucet (for a minute) inside your house and drain the pressure from your system.
- Turn AC to 82-84, and turn on all ceiling fans. Shut all curtains, lanai shades and vertical blinds. This helps keep cold out and heat in, and helps to deter break-ins.
- Unplug washing machine, dryer, microwave, toaster oven, coffee pot, speaker etc.
- Just prior to walking out the door on departure day, turn off the power to the water heater and appliances at the circuit breaker. Do not turn off breaker to street lamp, air conditioner or ceiling fans if keeping on.
- Whether you chose to leave your refrigerator operating or not, always remove perishables and turn off the ice maker. If shutting down the appliance, be sure to prop doors open.
- Lock house, shed and Lanai and car.
- Obey evacuation orders. Avoid flooded roads and washed out bridges.