

## **1.How to secure your home when going on vacation (keyword: secure your home while on vacation)**

Your home is most vulnerable when you're away from it. Burglars scope out homes, monitoring when families leave for the day and noticing signs that a family is left for vacation. Therefore, it's important to secure your home while on vacation so you have the peace of mind that your home is as protected as possible. Below, we'll explore some of the most important steps.

### **Stop Mail & Newspaper Service**

A pile of old newspapers and a stuffed mailbox are sure-fire signs that your family is away. Before leaving, call the post office and your local newspaper to hold the service until you get back. In addition, if you are going to be away for an extended period, you should make sure that your lawn service continues while you're gone, or that you have someone come by to mow the lawn. An unkempt yard with a home that is normally well-groomed signals that you're away.

### **Have a Friend Drop By**

Ask a friend to drive by every couple of days or so to check on your house. This friend can look for signs of burglary. In addition, they can make your house look occupied by picking up any advertisements or phone books that might get delivered. If you park your cars in the driveway, you might ask the friend to move the cars periodically.

### **Let Your Neighbors Know**

To secure your home while on vacation, you should let your neighbors know that you plan to be away, and whether or not anyone will be coming by your house. One common reason that burglaries go unreported is that neighbors assume that the people moving things in and out of the home are there for legitimate reasons.

### **Locks & Alarms**

Set your alarm system to "away" while you're gone, and ensure that all of the windows and doors are locked and secured. An alarm system will alert your alarm company, yourself, and/or police if someone enters without setting the alarm code. If you're having someone drop by periodically to water the plants or feed the cats, make sure that they know how to reset the alarms when they leave. If crime is a big worry for you, or if you have very valuable items, you might take it a step further by securing your most valuable possessions in a locked safe.

When you secure your home while on vacation, you can enjoy your trip with fewer worries. If you'd like to enhance your home with a home security system, John Moore Services can help. For a free quote or to talk to one of our representatives, please click below or give us a call at 1-877-342-2232.

## **2.What to do when resetting circuit breaker doesn't work (keyword: troubleshooting resetting a circuit breaker)**

When a circuit breaker trips, it's usually enough to simply go to the control panel and reset the circuit breaker by flipping the switches; in such cases, the circuit breaker may have just been tripped by chance or overload. A single instance of a tripped circuit breaker doesn't normally require a power outage. But sometimes a circuit breaker won't reset when you attempt to do so, or it will get tripped again soon after you reset it. This occurs because there is an underlying issue causing the circuit to protect itself by shutting off. In such cases, you'll need to try troubleshooting resetting a circuit breaker to determine the underlying cause. Try the following:

1. Check that all the buttons are in the "On" position. This might seem obvious, but sometimes your frustration at troubleshooting and resetting a circuit breaker is simply the result of an oversight.
2. Make sure you don't have too many appliances plugged into one circuit. If the circuit breaker keeps getting tripped after you reset it, it may be because you have too much power being pulled from a single circuit, even if the appliances are plugged into different outlets.
3. Use a voltmeter to check that the breaker is good. You can use your voltmeter to check that both the main breaker and the sub breakers are receiving voltage.
4. Use the test button. This is one of the simplest and most important steps in troubleshooting and resetting a circuit breaker. The test button should successfully trip the breaker; if it doesn't, it will need to be repaired.
5. Look for loose wires. Turn the power off first, and check the outlets and the electrical panel for loose wires. If you find one, tighten it.
6. Check for a short circuit. Turn the power off, then inspect your power cords for damage or melting. Look for a smell of burning or for signs of discoloration at the outlets. Check the insulation on the wires. Start at the outlet that's having the problem, and if you don't find signs of a short circuit, move on to all the outlets in the circuit.
7. Check for ground fault, which occurs when the hot (black) wire touches the ground wire (the copper wire) or the metal outlet box, which is attached to the ground wire.

Often, you can fix your circuit breaker or at least identify the problem without outside help. However, many electrical issues do require an expert. John Moore Services would be happy to fix your home's electrical issues. For a free quote, please click below or give us a call at 1-877-342-2232.

## **3.Five ways to check if your Heater is wasting money and not working properly (keyword: improving efficiency of a Heater)**

If your heater is running inefficiently, you're likely to wind up paying a lot of money for your heating bill, even if you're not using it much. There are many methods for improving the efficiency of a heater, from changing the heater itself to weatherizing your home. Try these 5 methods for checking if your heater is wasting money:

1. **Check your air vents.** For the heat to be dispersed throughout the house, you'll need

to make sure that all of the air vents are allowing air to flow through. The vents should all be open with the same amount of airflow running through. Make sure no furniture is blocking the air vents.

2. **Consider your unit's age.** Old heating units may only run at about 50% efficiency, thanks to a combination of age and lower efficiency standards. In contrast, modern, highly effective units can be up to 97% efficient. If you have an older heater, you may be able to save money and increase the value of your home by upgrading to a high efficiency heater.
3. **Keep an eye out for drafts.** You shouldn't feel cool drafts in the home. For improving the efficiency of a heater, it's important to make sure that cool air isn't entering through any unnecessary places. For example, make sure that your fireplace is blocked if you have one; check the insulation and sealing around windows and doors; and use curtains to keep heat in. Your ducts are another potential source for drafts; if you have a leaky duct, it may need to be repaired with duct mastic.
4. **Check the filters.** Your heater's filter should be changed at least once a month. A dirty filter can decrease your heater's efficiency, while also serving as a potential hazard. It's also important to perform any other scheduled maintenance for the heater.
5. **Use a programmable thermostat.** When you don't have a programmable thermostat, you may find yourself constantly adjusting the thermostat to a more comfortable temperature, or leaving the heater at a higher temperature than it needs to be. Programming your thermostat is one important way of improving the efficiency of a heater. Your thermostat should be programmed a few degrees lower for the hours when you're out of the house or sleeping.

You should check the efficiency of your heater at least once a year at the beginning of the cool season, so that you avoid being hit with a big heating bill. If your heater needs repaired or replaced, John Moore Services would be happy to help. For a free quote, please click below or give us a call at 1-877-342-2232.