

BMC Away From Home Suggestions For Craig Bay Residents;

-Check home insurance policy to establish the maximum time the home can be left vacant without being checked by a friend, neighbour, or security firm. Some policies specify three days, some a week, and others a month. If your home is left unchecked for longer than the time specified, your home insurance company may not cover loss or damage claims while you are away.

- Leave your emergency contact information, door keys, and contact information with a nearby relative, neighbour, and/or security company.

-Arrange to have your mail picked up, water indoor plants and outdoor too if necessary. Leave water in a filled container inside the home so indoor plants can be watered.

-Have garbage and recycling put to the curb and returned to the garage after you leave.

-You may wish to unplug phantom power loads such as TV's, kitchen appliances, and power strips etc... to reduce electrical usage and help prevent damage from power surges.

-Set timers for lights to turn on and off while away to simulate awake and bedtimes so the home looks occupied. You also may wish to tell neighbours to feel free to park their vehicle in your driveway while you are away to make it look like someone is home.

-If away for an extended period, it may be possible to suspend TV and internet service and save money. Check with your service provider. If you have a security system dependent on the internet, you would not wish to suspend that feature.

-Set the furnace thermostat to vacation mode, but if you are away during the winter, do not set the temperature below 15C- 18C. If the temperature is set lower, moisture may condense on surfaces, possibly causing mold and damage to flooring. You should also set the timer on the bathroom exhaust fan system, so it runs a minimum of two hours a day to provide proper ventilation.

- Shut off fireplace pilot light and gas line to fireplace.

-Shut power off to the hot water heater if electric or set to vacation mode if it is gas. If you have had an small electric recirculating pump installed on your water heater by a contractor, do not forget to cut its power supply to prevent it burning out when the water is shut off.

-Shut off water supply to the home including to the hot water heater. You may then open the valves for the faucets, showers, and hose bibs to drain the water. This will prevent damage from frozen pipes in case of an extended power outage. (N.B. When returning home, turn the water valve back on slowly and gently. A sudden burst of water pressure can cause plumbing leaks).

- Lock all doors and windows before you leave. Installation of wood sticks cut to correct length can help prevent windows and sliding patio doors from being jimmied open or raised up off their tracks.

-Enjoy your vacation!

