

Vacation/Extended Leave Checklist

- The refrigerator is the largest user of electricity in both vacant and occupied homes. If you have a second refrigerator, empty and unplug it while you're away.
- If you have a waterbed, be aware it's a major energy guzzler. Lower the temperature and cover the bed with two extra quilts to act as insulation.
- Use timers on various lights, set to different on/off times, for both security and to avoid leaving lights on around the clock. If an internal light must be kept on all the time while you are away, use a compact fluorescent bulb to reduce the energy used by up to 75%.
- If you're away during the winter, set the thermostat at 16°C (61°F)
- Check the instructions for your water heater because some units have a "vacation" setting.
- If you have a pool, make sure it's covered and check the timer on the pool pump.
- Electronic devices draw a small, constant amount of power. Unplug as many as you can.