

# HOLIDAY TRAVEL

## Keep Your Home Safe While You're Away

(NAPSA)—While you're going over the river and through the woods to grandmother's house (or anywhere else), you don't want to have to worry about what's happening back at your own home. These 12 hints can help you have peace of mind when you're out celebrating the season.

### Smart Safety Moves

1. Tell trusted neighbors you'll be away. Let them have your contact information, too.

2. Don't share specific details about your departure on social media.

3. To give the impression that someone is home, use timers to have the lights and the TV go on and off at certain times.

4. Get motion-sensitive lights for outside your house.

5. Consider having someone you know stay at your house while you're gone. At least have someone come by every day you're away to feed your pets, water your plants, take in the mail (unless you have the post office hold it for you) and the newspapers, and see that garbage cans are brought out and back and that snow or leaves don't pile up about your place.

6. Check the locks and latches on all the windows and doors before you go.

7. Keep trees and shrubs trimmed for visibility. All windows and doors should be visible, with little room for a person to duck down and hide.

8. Keep computers, TVs, collectibles and other valuables away from windows.

9. Watch your window blinds. If you normally leave some shades up, don't pull them all down. That can be seen as a sign that you're away.

10. Keep those home fires from burning. The United States Fire Administration points out that more house fires happen in winter than any other time of the year.



**You don't have to let fear of fire or burglary back home mar your holiday away.**

Before you go away, be sure you have at least one working smoke detector on each floor of the house. Unplug your television, computer, toaster oven and similar appliances to protect them from power surges.

11. Stay in touch. You can get a simple electrical device that continuously listens for your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. If they sound, the Leo Smart Alert calls you and sends push notifications wherever you may be. It's easy to set up using the free Leo smartphone app. You just plug it in and it works with an existing Wi-Fi network.

You can even add contact information for friends, family members or neighbors so if your alarm goes off and you don't answer immediately, it calls your preset emergency list until someone does.

12. If you'll be visiting friends or family, bring a great house gift, such as a way for your hosts to keep their home safer, too.

### Learn More

The Leo Smart Alert is available at Best Buy and Lowe's. For further facts, visit [www.leo.com](http://www.leo.com) or e-mail [support@leo.com](mailto:support@leo.com).