

Address: _____ Departure Date: _____

Heading North Checklist

Everything to button up your Southwest Florida home before summer



HVAC & Climate Control

- ☐ Set thermostat to 76-79°F (or use smart thermostat away mode)
Prevents mold and humidity damage — never turn AC completely off in SWFL summer
- ☐ Replace HVAC air filter before leaving
Dirty filters restrict airflow and strain the system while you are away
- ☐ Schedule HVAC maintenance before you go if possible
- ☐ Clear area around outdoor AC unit of debris and vegetation



Water & Plumbing

- ☐ Shut off water at the main supply valve if possible
Eliminates burst pipe risk — locate your shutoff before departure day
- ☐ Turn water heater to 'vacation' or lowest setting
- ☐ Clear out ice maker and turn off ice maker or water supply
- ☐ Check under sinks and around toilets for any active drips or moisture
- ☐ Check water softener and salt levels if applicable



Electrical & Appliances

- ☐ Unplug small appliances: toasters, coffee makers, microwaves, chargers
- ☐ Unplug TVs, entertainment systems, and computers
Reduces phantom power draw and protects from surge damage
- ☐ Install or check surge protectors on remaining plugged-in electronics
- ☐ Clean out and unplug the refrigerator, or set to lowest safe setting if keeping running
If unplugging: prop doors open to prevent mold and odor
- ☐ Empty, run, and turn off dishwasher — leave door slightly ajar
- ☐ Clean washing machine drum and leave lid/door open. Unplug if easily accessible.
- ☐ Empty and clean dryer lint trap. Unplug if easily accessible.
- ☐ Check that the garage door opener is in working order
- ☐ Remove batteries from remotes
Reduces risk of battery corrosion damage to your remote and table
- ☐ Replace batteries in your entry door or garage door entry pads

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Outdoor & Lawn

- ☐ Arrange lawn care / lawn service for summer months
Grass grows fast in SWFL summer rains — every 1–2 weeks typically needed. Contact us for service if needed.
- ☐ Trim back palms and trees away from the roof and power lines before leaving
- ☐ Bring in or secure all patio furniture, cushions, and umbrellas
Hurricane season begins June 1
- ☐ Store or lock down grills, planters, bird baths, and outdoor decor
- ☐ Check lanai screens for tears — repair before bug and storm season
- ☐ Clean gutters and downspouts
- ☐ Adjust irrigation timer for summer rainfall schedule or turn off if lawn service will handle
Overwatering in rainy season is a common issue
- ☐ Check pool — arrange service/maintenance for summer
Pool must be maintained even when unoccupied to prevent algae and damage



Interior Prep & Pest Control

- ☐ Schedule summer pest control treatment before departure or arrange ongoing service
- ☐ Clean kitchen thoroughly — wipe appliances, counters, and empty pantry of perishables
- ☐ Clean bathrooms thoroughly — wipe toilets, sinks, showers/tubs, and counters
- ☐ Dispose of all trash and recyclables. Always notify us if you need garbage service upon exiting.
- ☐ Place rodent bait stations or traps in garage and attic if previously needed
- ☐ Place moisture-absorbing packets in closets if humidity is a concern
- ☐ Close all blinds and curtains to block summer heat and sun damage to furniture (and to keep prying eyes out)
- ☐ Move valuables, artwork, or anything temperature-sensitive to safe storage
- ☐ Vacuum and clean all floors before leaving



Security & Safety

- ☐ Lock all windows and sliding glass doors, including secondary latches
- ☐ Test your alarm and ensure monitoring service is active
- ☐ Lock all exterior doors — check that deadbolts are engaged
- ☐ Schedule key pickup with us if required - gina@sunshinesentry.com or 239.999.4786
- ☐ Check smoke detector and CO detector batteries
- ☐ Check fire extinguisher charge
- ☐ Set interior lights on timers to simulate occupancy if available

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- ☐ Notify us of your travel dates! gina@sunshinesentry.com or 239.999.4786

Mail, Services & Notifications

- ☐ Pause or cancel food delivery, newspaper, or other recurring services
- ☐ Put USPS mail on hold or forward to northern address
- ☐ Ensure we have updated info for you – double check your Onboarding Questionnaire on the Portal to make sure it's up to date

Vehicles & Garage

- ☐ Disconnect battery or use a battery maintainer / trickle charger
Notify us if you need add-on car service
- ☐ Top off the gas tank and add a fuel stabilizer if leaving a vehicle
Prevents fuel degradation; SWFL summer heat is hard on gas
- ☐ Park vehicle in garage if possible — shade extends tire and paint life
- ☐ Check tire pressure and inflate to recommended level before storing
- ☐ Remove any food, sunscreen, or anything heat-sensitive from the car
- ☐ Place a mouse deterrent under the hood and around wheels if rodents are a concern

☒ Final Walk-Through

- ☐ Take photos of each room for insurance and condition documentation
- ☐ Do a room-by-room walk — check windows, lights, fans, and faucets
- ☐ Confirm thermostat is set correctly
- ☐ Confirm water main is off (if applicable)
- ☐ Confirm alarm is set and all doors and windows are locked
- ☐ Say goodbye to paradise — you will be back before you know it and we'll take good care in the meantime!