Beaufort Home Watch

HOME WATCH SUGGESTIONS BEFORE LEAVING HOME

A few simple steps before you leave will help protect your home while you are away and make our weekly visits more effective. Please review the suggestions below and contact us with any questions.

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1. **Water.** Water should be shut off. We recommend installing an indoor shut-off valve.
2. **Hot water.** Hot water should be turned off. Separate outside tankless heaters must remain on, with propane left on for them.
3. **Low-voltage items.** Unplug low-voltage items such as microwaves, TVs, and similar electronics.
4. **Appliances.** Appliances that are not needed should be shut off at the electrical panel, **except the refrigerator**.
5. **Thermostat.** Set temperatures to 58 degrees in winter and 78 degrees in summer.
6. **Irrigation.** Irrigation systems that run on a battery should have a new battery installed.
7. **Fans.** Leave fans on for air circulation.
8. **Heat pumps and A/C.** Heat pumps and air conditioning should be serviced every six months.
9. **Automobile storage.** Stored vehicles should be on a trickle charger. Newer cars draw a lot of electrical power, even when they are driven regularly.
10. **Refrigerators and freezers.** Please clean meats out of refrigerators and freezers while you are away. It only takes a few hours without power to create a mess, and cleaning out a refrigerator after meat has thawed is something no one wants to do. We do not provide this service. If you choose to leave meat, please at least keep it in a garage refrigerator, so a power problem will not mean the house has to be fumigated.
11. **Ice makers.** Turn ice makers off and empty the bins.
12. **Toilets.** Do not use chemicals. Covering the bowl with plastic wrap, leaving a slight bubble for flushing, will keep most bugs and mold away.

13. **Golf carts.** Water levels should be correct before you leave. We will charge carts periodically so the batteries keep some level of charge. Make sure tire pressure is maintained so tires do not go flat while you are gone, and place the cart in tow position.
14. **U.S. Mail.** Please arrange in advance with the post office to have mail forwarded. We check every mailbox each week to make sure mail is being forwarded. Any mail that is not forwarded will be left on the kitchen counter for your return.
15. **Security notification.** It is very important to fill out the community security card letting them know you are leaving. Security needs to know who holds the key to the house.
16. **Newspapers.** Please have newspaper delivery stopped. We are not able to collect papers every day.
17. **Arrival and departure.** Please let us know the date and time you are leaving and the date and time you are arriving. This helps us get the house checked and ready for your return.
18. **Patio, deck, and porch.** Bring in or tightly secure all patio, deck, and porch items.
19. **Air purifiers.** Clean air purifiers before leaving. Purifiers add mold protection to the home as well as cleaner air.
20. **Propane.** Turn propane tanks off, except for outside water heaters. Fireplace propane should be off.
21. **Contact information.** Make sure we have your current email address and cell phone number.
22. **Island newspapers.** If you will not be here, please cancel delivery of local island papers.
23. **Garage door keypad.** The outside garage door keypad should have new batteries.
24. **Vendor list.** Provide a complete list of phone numbers for the vendors you want us to use, such as A/C, plumbing, and others.
25. **Food and snacks.** Do not leave candy or wrapped snacks out. Marsh rats love them.
26. **Hidden key.** If an extra key is hidden on the property, please let us know where it is.

Thank you for trusting **Beaufort Home Watch** with your home.