

Going on vacation?

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**Going on vacation?**

**By Michael McBee**

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Is your home safe?

In the hustle and bustle of getting ready to go on vacation we prepare for many things. But for many of us we forget about protecting our home while we travel. I have compiled a few tips about what to do about the place you will be leaving behind, your home. If you are able to do just a few of them there is a better likelihood your home will be just the way you left it.

One of the times your home is most vulnerable is when it is left empty for an extended period of time. Darkened windows, unretreived mail or newspapers and closed windows in hotter weather all advertise your absence to a potential burglar.

The best protection for your home during your absence is to have a house sitter. A friend you trust staying at your house can take care of your pets and/or plants in addition to making sure the house is inhabited. Have a neighbor check on your home while you're away turning on lights, radios or TVs and opening and closing curtains will give your apartment the appearance that someone is home.

If you don't have a friend or neighbor to housesit or check your home while you're away -- perhaps even if you do -- you should keep not only lights but also a TV or radio on a timer. If you're like me and have your TV on almost all the time you're home (NOTE: I don't watch it, it's just background noise while I work), the absence of the sound and that bluish light in the windows announces that you're not there (besides it keeps my pets company as well).

Make sure whoever is checking your home while you're away knows how to work your alarm system and who to call in case of a problem or emergency. Additionally be sure to leave contact numbers on how you can be reached as well. Unless you have a house sitter, stop your mail and any newspaper or other delivery. Nothing announces an empty home better than a stack of newspapers or an overflowing mailbox. Ask a nearby neighbor to pick up any packages delivered while you're gone.

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If you have a garden or plants on your balcony like many apartment complexes do, make sure someone is watering the plants regularly or put the plants where they can't be seen. Plants slowly dying due to lack of water may announce your absence.

If you live in an apartment, check your lease. Many landlords require that you notify them if your apartment is going to be left empty for any period of time (this is so they can enter in case of emergency even if they can't reach you). If you've got a house sitter this normally isn't necessary.

Above is just some common sense tips, maybe they can help you jog your mind and you will think of a few others. There is nothing worse than coming home from a wonderful time on vacation to find that your home has been violated.

Michael McBee is the owner of

Self-Defense is not just about your

personal security, it's also about everything around you.

### **Take a Vacation---You Deserve It.**

**By Mike Yeager**

A vacation is just what the doctor ordered for many people. While there is nothing wrong with working hard, it's always fun to get away. Given the low cost of airline tickets these days, many people can go almost anywhere they want. From skiing in the mountains to sunbathing next to a pool, a vacation is a great time to relax and have some fun. Whether you have a day or a month off, make the most of it by doing something that you enjoy.

While many people like to spend their vacation in a warmer climate, others like to explore the great outdoors and go on hikes. No matter what your ideal vacation is, it will allow you to leave your troubles behind and embark on fun filled adventure.

Plan Your Vacation.

If you plan to fly somewhere for your vacation, book your airline tickets early. Also, try to make your hotel reservations as soon as possible. Doing so will reduce most last minute stress. It also helps to pack as lightly as possible. If you don't know exactly what you want to do on vacation, it might help to check with a travel agency.

Keep in mind that you don't have to travel far for your vacation. Many people take a vacation in their own town. Check out some of the tourist attractions in your own city that you might have forgotten about. If you pick the right vacation for you, you will be able to fully enjoy and look forward to a great time ahead.

Mike Yeager

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Publisher

Take a Vacation——You Deserve It.  
Finding Cheap Airfare Tickets for your Vacation.  
With Vacation Rentals You Can Stay For a Long Time  
Vacation Packages...just book—it...and enjoy it.  
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