

Before you go...

HOLIDAY CHECKLIST

As you set out on your vacation this season, leave your home and belongings behind properly – and your worries too. **Faisal Masudi** gives you a lowdown on must-do's so you can avoid nasty surprises when you return

FOOD & DRINK



- Finish off leftovers or throw them away
- Don't leave food in open containers – not even in the fridge – if you're going on a long break (one month or more)
- Don't leave behind perishable items like milk, yogurt or fresh fruits. Again, either consume or trash them
- Tightly seal containers of dry food items like raw rice, pasta and ground coffee to keep out pests

HOME



- Turn off the main switch and other switches as well
- Unplug all appliances like toasters, ovens and coffee makers
- Replace cracked or bare wires and loose connections as they may cause electrical sparks, which can result in a fire
- Put safety covers on all electrical outlets and switches
- Don't tie up or knot cords
- Don't let furniture rest on cords
- Keep appliances dry and away from water sources

- Close and lock windows
- Turn off the gas supply
- Cover furniture and electronic items – when you're away, dust starts to settle on surfaces
- Take out the trash
- Turn off taps tightly
- Lock all rooms, safe boxes, closets and cabinets
- Freeze newspaper and mail deliveries wherever possible
- Leave a house key with someone you trust – this helps in case of emergencies
- Water your plants

CAR



- Use a vehicle cover. Or ask someone reliable to clean your car
- Park the car away from sunlight if possible. Take out valuables and flammable or pressurised items such as lighters, perfume and deodorants from the car
- Check the tyre pressure. One slight puncture and you'll have flat tyres waiting when you come back
- Check the battery and make sure headlights and cabin lights are

switched off

- Roll up windows fully
- Double check the locks on all doors and the trunk
- Don't leave the petrol tank empty

MONEY



- Leave enough bank funds to cover post-dated cheques and automatic payments like car instalments and loan paybacks
- Settle your power and water bills to prevent disconnection

PAPERWORK & DOCUMENTS



- Make sure your visa or passport is not about to expire – you may face problems getting back in the country

PETS



- Leave your pets at animal care centres, or with a friend

