

## **Preparing Your Home When Leaving Town**

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- ◆ **TURN OFF THE MAIN WATER SUPPLY IN YOUR HOME!**
- ◆ Set the air conditioner and humidistat according to the instructions — experts suggest setting the thermostat at 80°.
- ◆ If you have a de-humidistat set it according to the instructions — experts suggest setting it at 65° (humidity) and the thermostat at 75°.
- ◆ Lock all windows and doors.
- ◆ Unplug or turn the breaker off for the water heater and other major appliances and electronics.
- ◆ Have someone check your home while you are away
- ◆ Ensure your alarm system is working.
- ◆ Empty your refrigerator.
- ◆ Clean all portable appliances. Remember to remove crumbs from toasters (to prevent ants).
- ◆ Sweep or vacuum all floors to remove crumbs and dirt.
- ◆ Do not leave any flour, crackers, bread or pasta products stored in cupboards. If you do, you are inviting bugs to have a feast while you are away.
- ◆ Manually lock automatic garage doors.
- ◆ Forward your mail and cancel your newspaper.
- ◆ Bring in all items including patio furniture if you do not have shutters.
- ◆ Close and secure storm shutters — Be sure to review your Association's policy on hurricane shutters.
- ◆ Turn off the water supply to the washing machine to prevent pressure damage from hoses.