

**Good Hands® Advice**  
Tips to help you be prepared and informed



# Heading South This Winter? Prepare Before You Go

As the cold weather begins to take hold, many Canadians opt to avoid it by flying south. Regular seasonal travellers, also known as “snowbirds,” should follow a routine before they leave for the winter. Sometimes small but important tasks get missed, so it's important to have a thorough list that covers all your essential to-dos before leaving for an extended period of time. Here are 12 things you should consider before heading south for the winter:

**Before you leave:**

- Arrange to have your mail picked up or forwarded to another location while you're away and make sure your newspaper delivery is suspended until you return.
  - Hire someone to clear your driveway and sidewalk of snow over the winter and to salt icy patches.
  - Put indoor and outdoor lights on timers so they turn on and off at appropriate times.
  - Shut off the water and drain all pipes to prevent them from freezing, bursting and causing any accidental flooding.
  - Ensure that pipes exposed to colder areas (the attic etc.) are properly insulated to prevent freezing.
  - Store any valuables not going south with you in a safe or safety deposit box.
  - Ensure travel documents like passports and travel information are photocopied and stored safely with a family member.
- Review your home's insurance policy to ensure the contents of your home are adequately covered and make sure you know what you need to do to maintain coverage while you're away.
  - Reassess your auto policy if you will be driving your car out of town for an extended period, or if you will have your car in storage. Let your agent know where you will be going and for how long.
  - If you have travel or health insurance, review it before you leave to ensure you're properly covered.

Following these tips will not only help you maintain peace of mind as you enjoy a warm comfortable winter down south, but it can also help ensure a trouble free return home.

For more information on how you can protect your home and what's important to you while you're away, visit [allstate.ca/learningcentre](http://allstate.ca/learningcentre), contact your local Allstate Insurance Agency or call 1-800-allstate.

**While you're away:**

- Refrain from making social media updates that indicate you are away from home.
- Avoid leaving a voicemail greeting that indicates you are away for an extended period of time.

**Don't forget about your home and auto insurance:**

**Good Hands® claims service available 24/7**