

Closing Your Florida Home Checklist

The following list is designed to assist you in preparing to close your home for the season. Some procedures may apply to your situation, others may not. Use this list as a guide to check off those tasks of greatest concern to you and your own.

THREE WEEKS PRIOR TO LEAVING

- Make an appointment to have your central air conditioning system serviced (this should be done once a year).
- Have air conditioning service professional calibrate humidistat.
- Call telephone company to temporarily suspend service during your absence.
- Review homeowner's insurance policy and update, if necessary.
- Determine what method(s) you will use to control relative humidity inside your home and/or control fungal growth.
- Seek a trusted friend or relative to check on your home or act in your behalf.
- Arrange for landscaping maintenance.
- Arrange to close shutters and/or prepare home in the event of a hurricane threat.
- _____
- _____
- _____

TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO LEAVING

- Purchase timers for lamps, radio or other appliances.
- Arrange to forward mail.
- Arrange for cancellation of newspapers, magazines.
- Run air conditioning on humidistat settings to test reliability. It should run *at least* two hours out of every 24.
- Purchase desiccants, if needed.
- Begin cleaning with fungicidal products to remove existing fungal spores.
- _____
- _____
- _____

ONE WEEK PRIOR TO LEAVING

- Clean refrigerator and freezer. Eat food on hand.
- Check operation of dehumidifier, if you choose to use one. Place in central location.
- Secure continuous drain.
- Vacuum upholstered furnishings to rid of mold spores.
- Remove interior plants and exterior plants in pots and containers.
- Eat food in the food cabinets or plan to give away or discard. Do not keep herbs such as parsley, oregano, basil, etc. You may, however, keep spices such as cinnamon, curry, nutmeg, etc. and all canned products.
- _____
- _____
- _____

ON THE DAY OF DEPARTURE

- Empty refrigerator and freezer; disconnect and leave door slightly ajar.
- Run 1 dozen ice cubes and 2 or 3 tablespoons baking soda in the garbage disposal to clean blades.
- Empty dishwasher.
- Set timers on lights.
- Drain and disconnect water heater.
- Strip bedding.
- Cover drains with stopper and duct tape.
- Cover and seal toilets.
- Check air conditioning for accurate settings.
- Set off insect "*bombs*" or "*foggers*", if desired.
- Set burglar alarm.
- Lock doors and secure exterior.
- _____
- _____
- _____

Adapted From: Closing Your Florida Home Checklist, Palm Beach County Extension



Julie England, Extension Agent I
UF/IFAS Lake County Extension
1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares, FL 32778
julieeng@ufl.edu
(352) 343-4101



The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS) is an Equal Opportunity Institution authorized to provide research, educational information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function with non-discrimination with respect to race, creed, color, religion, age, disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, national origin, political opinions or affiliations. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, University of Florida, IFAS, Florida A. & M. University Cooperative Extension Program, and Boards of County Commissioners Cooperating.