

Don't Just Pack Your Bags; Prepare Your Home for Vacation Too

Your bags are packed and you're ready to leave your humdrum routine for a much-needed vacation. As you pack for your destination, remember your home needs a little prep, too.

Along with the usual tasks such as having your mail stopped, there are other steps you can take to help deter burglars and even save you a little green. With the money you save, you might have a little extra for umbrella-garnished drinks or destination t-shirts.

Before you leave, here are some ways to save money on your energy bill:

- Adjust your hot water heater. For a natural gas water heater, turn it to low or vacation mode. For an electric version, turn it down or off at the circuit breaker panel.
- Do not completely turn off your air conditioning during vacation so that the air in your house continues to circulate. Set or program your thermostat to a temperature that mimics the outside temperature (about 80 to 85 degrees). This still protects your wood floors and furniture but saves on energy costs.
- Unplug small appliances and electronic devices including gaming systems so that they don't draw power. Also do not leave chargers plugged in when they're not in use since they can overheat. Unplug charging devices after electronics are fully charged.)
- Make sure your sump pump is working.

Take these electrical and plumbing precautions:

- Turn off water valves to the dishwasher, washing machine and all sinks. Or, consider shutting off the main water valve, which cuts off water to the house but still allows water supply to an outdoor sprinkler system.

Here are some ways to keep your home looking lived in to ward off burglars:

- If you have a smart home, it's easy to regulate lights in your home remotely. Turn various lights on and off intermittently or have them timed to do so.

- If you do not have smart lighting, put various lights on timers.
- Ask a trusted neighbor to park in your driveway occasionally while you are gone.
- Use motion detectors on outside lights.
- Before you leave, check all windows and doors to make sure they are locked.

And finally, remember to clean out your fridge before leaving so that you don't come home to moldy leftovers. For more information about electrical safety, visit SafeElectricity.org.

5 OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL HAZARDS

- 1. Power Lines** – Always look up and out for power lines. Keep you and your equipment at least 10 feet away from power lines.
- 2. Outdoor outlets** – These should be powered by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI), which turns itself off if it senses a current leak or a short circuit.
- 3. Pools** – Use battery-powered electronics around the pool. Have an electrician inspect your pool, spa or hot tub before the beginning of each swim season to avoid electrical hazards.
- 4. Extension Cords** – Use extension cords that are rated for outdoor use. Using an indoor cord, which cannot withstand the weather conditions, could result in a shock or fire hazard.
- 5. Electric Garden Tools** – Never use electric garden tools in wet or damp conditions. Check for cracked or frayed cords before use and replace if damaged.

Learn more at SafeElectricity.org



June is Dairy Month

Ice Cream!! Butter!! Cheese!!
They are lip smacking good!

We "salooooote" and thank Wisconsin's dairy farmers!!

Wisconsin is America's Dairyland but there is more pro-

duced and processed in our state than just milk and cheese. Wisconsin ranks first in the nation for: snap beans for processing, cheese, cranberries, ginseng, mink pelts, dry whey for humans, milk goats and corn for silage.

Wisconsin agriculture is a big economic driver contributing \$88.3 billion annually to our state's economy.

- Sales from food processing industrial sales total \$67.8 billion.
- Using the industry sales multiplier, every dollar of agricultural activity yields an additional 79 cents of industrial sales elsewhere in Wisconsin's economy.
- The state is home to 64,793 farms on 14.3 million acres. The average farm size in Wisconsin is 221 acres.

Wisconsin agriculture provides jobs.

- Annually, 413,500 jobs or 11.9% of the state's employment.
- On-farm production contributes 153,900 jobs.
- Processing contributes 259,600 jobs.
- Every job in agriculture supports an additional 1.46 jobs elsewhere in Wisconsin.

Wisconsin is one of the top states in the production of the major processing vegetables.

- In 2018, Wisconsin grew 6.58 million cwt of snap beans, 1.71 million cwt of carrots, 612,000 cwt of cucumbers and 978,600 cwt of green peas.
- The state ranks third in the nation in potato production harvesting potatoes on 71,000 acres in 2018.

Wisconsin is home to about 7,800 dairy farms, more than any other state, and 1.28 million cows.

- The dairy industry itself contributes \$43.4 billion to Wisconsin's economy each year.
- The dairy industry fuels the state's economy at more than \$82,500 per minute.
- The feed mills, dairy equipment manufacturers and

technicians, veterinarians, construction companies, genetics companies, milk haulers, dairy plants, dairy software companies - create a wave of economic impact that rolls across the entire state.

Wisconsin is #1 in cheese.

- Our state's nearly 1,200 licensed cheesemakers produce over 600 types, styles and varieties of cheese – nearly double the number of any other state.
- Wisconsin cheesemakers make 26% of the nation's cheese, producing 3.42 billion pounds in 2018.
- Wisconsin leads the nation in the production of 803 million pounds of specialty cheeses, including but not limited to asiago, gorgonzola, gruyere, aged cheddar, gouda, and limburger.
- Wisconsin exported \$3.5 billion of agricultural products in 2018 to 143 countries.
- Wisconsin ranks 12th among all states in the nation for the value of agricultural exports.
- The state's top agricultural export markets include Canada, China and Mexico.
- Miscellaneous food items (ingredients, sauces, yeasts, mustards) were Wisconsin's most valuable agricultural export category in 2018.
- Wisconsin leads the nation in the export of bovine semen, ginseng roots, and prepared/preserved cranberries and sweet corn.

Source: (Updated May 10, 2019) Wisconsin Monthly Dairy Farms Statistics

DATCP—State of Wisconsin, <https://datcp.wi.gov/Pages/Publications/WIAgStatistics.aspx>

ATTENTION:

TIME-OF-DAY CUSTOMERS

THE PEAK TIMES ARE 11:00 AM—7:00 PM
NOW THROUGH AUGUST. PLEASE ADJUST
YOUR SCHEDULES ACCORDINGLY.