

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.

- Cancel or forward all mail and newspapers.
- Lock all windows and doors.
- Have someone check your Villa at least once every two weeks.
- Set thermostats between 75-80 degrees and 55%-60% on the humidistat. If you have a programmable thermostat, FPL recommends programming thermostats at 72 degrees for just two hours each morning before sunrise and at 88 degrees the rest of the time.
- Replace smoke detector batteries and consider replacing smoke detector if more than 10 years old (they have a 10 yr life cycle)
- Arrange to close shutters and/or prepare home in the event of a hurricane threat.
- Set timers for lamps, radio or other appliances, if desired for safety.
- Clean all appliances, remember to remove crumbs from toasters to prevent ants. Vacuum all floors to remove crumbs and dirt. Do not leave any flour, crackers, bread or pasta products stored in cupboards. This invites bugs to feast while you are away.
- Consider lowering the temperature of your refrigerator, less volume promotes efficiency. Empty and turn off the ice maker.
- Lift up toilet seats, have home watchman flush and sanitize to prevent water evaporation trapping sewer gases.
- Ensure your alarm is working, if applicable.
- Turn electric breaker off to the water heater.
- Unplug all electronics, add surge protectors or contact an electrician about installing a full-home surge protector. FPL offers their SurgeShield program, which is a meter-located protector.
- Unplug overhead garage door openers.
- Turn off main water supply to your Villa.
- 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.

- In case of summer storms or inclement weather, be sure to take pictures or video of both the inside and outside of your home and take important documents with you when you leave. These two actions will help with any storm related claims should they arise. Also take pictures or video of the contents inside your home as well.
- Run 1/2 dozen ice cubes and 2 or 3 tablespoons baking soda in the garbage disposal to clean blades.
- Empty dishwasher and leave dishwasher door open.
- Make sure all closet doors, bedroom doors and cabinet doors under sinks are open for ventilation.
- Summit Broadband recommends when leaving for an extended period of time, is to *please leave the cable boxes connected to power and cable jack*, this way if Summit needs to provide any updates to the boxes they are able to receive them.

Additional Safety Suggestions:

- Clean your dryer vent regularly, not only do clogged vents unnecessarily cost in electricity and shorten the life of your dryer, it is a fire hazard.
- Change water lines on washing machine, toilets and undersinks from rubber/plastic to braided supply lines.
- Service your A/C unit before you leave, check the condensation lines for any clogs, small critters, bugs and dirt can clog lines which can back up into the A/C unit.
- If using chemical mildew inhibitors, cover air passages with 2 ml thick plastic.
- Set burglar alarm, if applicable.
- Check air conditioning for accurate settings.
- Set off insect "bombs" or "foggers", if desired.
- Lock doors and secure exterior.