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## Great Tips for Vacation-Proofing your Home

Getting ready for vacation requires some serious preparation. Between booking travel, setting up lodging, boarding pets and more, there's a lot that goes into getting out of town. Often times as plans come together and excitement builds we forget to make sure our homes are ready, too. Below are a few tips and reminders to help make sure your house is as vacation-ready as you are when it comes time to head off on your well-deserved retreat.

**Tell a Neighbor.** The most important part of getting your home ready for your absence is to make sure someone you know is watching out for it. Watering plants, picking up newspapers and checking mail is a good way to keep things in order. And it's nice to have a friend or neighbor keeping an eye out for your home should something unexpected happen.

**Power Down.** It's a good idea to put lights on a timer to keep your home looking lively, but a great way to preserve resources and save money is to put your house into "conservation mode." Turn the A/C up to 80 degrees, turn your water heater to 'pilot,' shut off the main water valve (as long as you don't have dependent systems such as pool pumps), and unplug coffee makers, toasters and other small appliances. You'd be surprised how much energy you can save in just a short amount of time!

**Clean Up.** There's nothing worse than spending time recharging your batteries only to come home to a mess. Before you leave, take the time to clean the perishables out your refrigerator and pantry. Get rid of your garbage to keep your home smelling fresh. And spend just a few minutes picking up around the house – it's amazing what a difference it makes knowing you're not returning to a home full of clutter.

Read the full article by visiting:  
<http://www.2-10.com/blog/great-tips-for-vacation-proofing-your-home/>

## Summer Fruit Cobbler

### Ingredients

- 4oz unsalted butter, cut into 8 pieces
- 1 cup unbleached all-purpose flour
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 1 ½ tsp. baking powder
- Pinch kosher salt
- 1 cup whole milk
- 3 cups mixed whole or sliced fresh summer fruit (blackberries, blueberries, peaches, plums, nectarines)
- Vanilla ice cream for serving

### Instructions

1. Position a rack in the center of the oven and heat the oven to 375°F. Put the butter in 3-quart baking dish or similar, and put the dish or pan in the oven to melt the butter while the oven is heating.
2. Meanwhile, stir or whisk the flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a medium bowl until well combined. Add the milk and stir or whisk until combined.
3. When the butter is fully melted, take the baking dish out of the oven and pour the batter over the melted butter; do not mix. Scatter the fruit over the batter, favoring the middle of the dish more than the edges; do not mix it in. Bake until the top is a rich golden-brown, 30 to 45 minutes. Serve warm with vanilla ice cream.

Recipe courtesy of [finecooking.com](http://finecooking.com)



## WARRANTY WISDOM

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