

Selling your home involves opening it to strangers for showings, so it's important to take certain precautions to protect your household from theft, damage or liability.

Valuables

Take jewelry, collectibles, keys, cash, credit cards, your checkbook and other valuable items with you or lock them away.



Medications

Remove prescription medications from your nightstand and medicine cabinets to discourage theft.



Personal Info

Keep mail, financial documents and anything with your Social Security Number on it hidden away. Personal photos and anything labeled with names should also be put away to protect your privacy.



Electronics

Be sure to lock desktop computers, and hide or remove portable electronics like lap tops, tablets and gaming systems.

Weapons

Keep firearms, knives and other weapons locked away, and place items that could be used as a weapon (e.g. letter opener, ice pick, scissors) out of sight.



Showings

Once the "For Sale" sign goes up, interested buyers may show up at your door, asking to view your home. Directing them to schedule a showing through your real estate professional is the safest course of action.



Hazards

Reduce liability concerns by creating a safe environment for visitors. Keep pets secure at all times. Clear driveways and sidewalks of snow, ice or debris. Indoors, secure loose rugs or electrical cords, and keep walkways well-lit and free of clutter.



Security

A "For Sale" sign can also attract the interest of burglars, who know you will be coming and going frequently. Make sure to lock and secure your home at all times and tell your real estate professional if you plan to be away from home for several days or more.

Following these tips can help protect your home from criminals so you can focus on the task of selling it.

