

BULLETIN



June 2007

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HOME SECURITY WHILE YOU ARE AWAY

The summer months are here and many of you will begin taking summer vacations. While on vacation it is important to make sure your home is safe. Below are some helpful tips that will secure your home and keep it safe while you are away.

- Let someone you trust in your neighborhood know about your plans, especially when you will be leaving and when you plan on returning.
- Make a plan with a neighbor or the police in your town to check on your home periodically.
- Have a neighbor or a close friend collect your mail and newspapers, turn on and turn off lights and open and close blinds and curtains. If you don't know of anyone that can help you with this, cancel your mail and newspapers and set your lights on a timer switch.
- Make sure to have your lawn mowed while you are away during the summer.
- Unplug all accessories before your leave such as toasters, coffee pots and irons.
- Post a list of important phone numbers in a prominent place in your house that includes your plans — where you are staying, phone and cell numbers, home address and phone number, local emergency phone numbers for fire and police, the names, ages and weight of your children, poison control contact information, and the names, phone and cell numbers of a neighbor.
- Post a list of your house rules for a home sitter — specifically if guests are allowed or not.
- Keep a flashlight in an easily accessible location and post instructions about how to turn of the maingas valve to your furnace, where the main water valve is into your home and post instructions about what todo in case of a power outage.
- If you have a security alarm, post the instructions about how to turn it on or off, codes needed, and make sure to take the time to walk your housesitter through the basics.
- Lock all the doors and windows before you leave and show your house sitter how to unlock and lock them as well.
- Leave a second vehicle in the driveway to give the illusion that someone is home.
- Walk your house sitter through the proper "door answering" procedure and leave instructions about who to call for assistance.

If Your Plans Include Traveling Abroad:

- Pre-arrange contact times with your home or neighbors.
- Register with the consulate as soon as you arrive at your destination.
- Familiarize yourself with your destination before you get there so you know where to go and what do when you do arrive.
- Make notarized photocopies of your passport.
- Be sure to pack any medication or medical records that you might need while away.

These helpful tips will help you feel confident your home is safe while you are away. Enjoy your vacation!

Find Out What Your Home Is Worth



Want to put our powerful marketing to work for you in selling your home? Before you do, find out what your home is worth with a free market analysis* from Coldwell Banker Real Estate. I will

give you a thorough analysis and opinion of your home's value in today's real estate marketplace. Don't guess when it comes to pricing your home. Get professional help by calling me today! *This is not an appraisal.

Umbrella Policy: Another Layer of Protection

A lawsuit can wipe out your family's financial security. That's why excess liability coverage – a so-called **Umbrella Policy** – should be in everyone's insurance portfolio. Homeowners and automobile insurance policies provide liability coverage, but those policies have limits. An Umbrella Policy adds additional coverage to home and auto policies to protect you. For more information about protecting your assets from a liability judgment call NRT Insurance Agency at **Call 1-888-717-1776.**



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THE RIGHT CHOICE IN HOME WARRANTIES®

Seller Benefits

When you are trying to sell your home you need to make it stand out from the rest. A **Coldwell Banker®** Home Protection Plan protects your potential buyers from the hassels of unexpected, covered repairs - and with our listing coverage, you're protected too! That can help you avoid putting money into repairing or replacing items that you have decided to sell. Protect yourself and your buyers with a **Coldwell Banker®** Home Protection Plan.

Buyer Benefits

Buying a home is fun, exciting and a huge investment. That's why you protect it with homeowner's insurance. But what about the items not covered by insurance: a water heater failure... a dishwasher breakdown... an electrical problem? A **Coldwell Banker®** Home Protection Plan is sensible protection. When a covered item breaks down due to normal wear and tear, we will send a contractor to your home to solve the problem. It's that simple. For information on Coldwell Banker Home Protection Plans contact your Coldwell Banker agent today.

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514 Claims Paid in
Greater Pittsburgh
totaling over \$67,200 in 2007

CLEANING TIPS FOR YOUR SUMMER FURNITURE

Summer is just around the corner and it is time to unveil your outdoor furniture. After storage over the long winter months, outdoor furniture can sustain scuffs, stains, rust and just plain dirt. Here are cleaning and care tips to get you furniture in shape for those summer celebrations.

Plastic Furniture: Wipe with a clean cloth using water and mild dishwashing detergent (Ivory). Rinse by hosing down. To remove scuffs and stains, a spray paint is now available that bonds to plastic without sanding or priming.

Wicker Furniture: Clean with a soft scrub brush using water and Murphy Oil Soap. Rinse by hosing down. Hose down every few weeks to prevent dirt buildup in crevices. Inclement weather wears on wicker, so cover furniture with vinyl when it rains.

Aluminum Furniture: Wipe with a clean cloth dampened with water and a mild dishwashing detergent

(Ivory). Use a small amount of Soft Scrub to remove scuff marks. Be careful because abrasive cleaners will scratch. Rinse by hosing down. To protect the finish, apply baby oil with a soft cloth every two to three months.

Teak Furniture: Use a soft scrub brush with water and Murphy Oil Soap and rinse by hosing down. To maintain the original reddish brown color of teak, use a water-based teak protector.

Wrought-Iron: Clean with a cloth, water and mild dishwashing detergent (Ivory) and rinse by hosing down. Use vinyl covers to prevent rusting during inclement weather. To remove rust, lightly sand the affected area and wipe thoroughly with a clean cloth. Then apply touch up paint.

Now that your furniture is clean, fire up your grill and enjoy the summer!

