

# FROM YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERT



## WHILE ON VACATION...

Planning a summer trip? Don't leave your empty home vulnerable to intruders. Take these extra steps to keep your home safe:

1. **Don't break the pattern.** Disrupting your daily routines alerts burglars you're away. Maintain typical patterns by investing in light timers, hiring a lawn service or arranging a house sitter.
2. **Stop!** Put a temporary stop on your mail and newspaper deliveries. The hold-mail service is free and you can make the request online.
3. **Burglars "like" social media too.** Posting your whereabouts on social media tells the public your place is empty and vulnerable. Wait until your return before posting vacation photos.
4. **Shhh...** Remember to turn off your alarm clock and turn down the ringer on your house phone before you leave. Audible alerts like continuously beeping alarm clocks and ringing phones can draw attention to your absence.
5. **Neighborly love.** Tell a neighbor when you leave town so they can keep an eye on your property and put up your garbage bins. If you're good friends, ask if they will occasionally park in your driveway or rotate the cars parked in front of your house. Don't forget to return the favor!
6. **Lock up and disconnect.** Lock all windows and doors. Be sure all external doors have deadbolts and place metal or wooden rods in sliding door tracks so they can't be forced open. Disconnect the power to your garage door so it can't be opened by a universal opener.
7. **Global Positioning Savvy.** A car left in long term parking with a GPS on the dash is an advertisement that your house is unguarded — and you're providing a map to it! Once you get to the airport, hide your GPS, lock the keyboard or set "Home" to a local business and not your empty home.

Have a great trip! If you find your getaways are frequent, maybe it's time for a move to a more permanent paradise. Give me a call if you're thinking about listing your house!

## GRILLED SALMON

- 1 ½ lbs salmon fillets
- Lemon pepper, to taste
- Garlic powder, to taste
- Salt, to taste
- 1/3 cup soy sauce
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 1/3 cup water
- ¼ cup vegetable oil

1. Season salmon fillets with lemon pepper, garlic powder and salt.
2. In a small bowl, stir together soy sauce, brown sugar, water and vegetable oil until sugar is dissolved. Place fish in a large resealable plastic bag with the soy sauce mixture. Seal and turn to coat. Refrigerate for at least 2 hours.
3. Preheat grill for medium heat.
4. Lightly oil grill grate. Place salmon on the preheated grill and discard marinade. Cook salmon for 6 to 8 minutes on each side, or until the fish flakes easily with a fork.

## MAINTENANCE TIP!

Summer is here and it's the best time to flex your chef muscles for a backyard barbecue. Before you throw your favorite food on the grill, make sure you protect your friends and family from fire hazards:

- keep a fire extinguisher handy;
- avoid wearing loose clothing that may catch fire;
- keep flammable cooking materials away from the grill;
- supervise older children helping with the cooking and keep small children away altogether; and
- don't grill while intoxicated.

Inside the house, follow these tips to prevent the risk of fire from common fire hazards:

- turn off your dryer before leaving the house;
- avoid smoking indoors;
- keep space heaters more than three feet away from flammable possessions;
- blow out candles and oil lamps when you leave a room; and
- moisten matches before tossing them in the trash.

Make the extra effort to fireproof your home so your summer is safe and fun!



## AN EASY, BREEZY SUMMER MOVE

### Plan ahead

- Shop moving companies at least a month before you move. Use a packing calculator to determine how many boxes and supplies you'll need.
- Sort your belongings into things to be tossed, recycled or given away, things to be packed ahead of time, and things to keep handy until moving day.
- Make childcare and/or petcare arrangements for the day of the move. This will keep kids and pets safe, happy and occupied while you're busy moving.

### Stay cool

- Wear light, close-fitting clothing to stay cool and avoid getting snagged on obstacles.
- Wear comfortable, close-toed shoes – sandals can trip you up on stairs and expose your feet.
- Drink plenty of water, and avoid sugary drinks that speed dehydration.
- Take lots of breaks! Stop for water and a snack in the shade every hour or so.

### Protect your belongings

- Take heat-sensitive electronics, house plants, small pets, candles and medicines with you in an air-conditioned car.
- Pack and load basic kitchen and bathroom items last. Label these boxes "Open First." Chances are you'll need them before you're completely unpacked.

### Recruit help

- If you've hired movers, offer them cold water and provide somewhere for them to take periodic breaks.
- If you haven't finished perishable foods before your move, having a barbecue for friends and family is a great way to get rid of what you can't take with you. It might also make it easier to convince them to help you out on the big day!

Now that you're ready to settle into your new home, offer a helping hand to friends looking to move. Tell them to call me to make their home search easy!