

Vacation Checklist

Preparing for a vacation can be hard work. Whether you're traveling to another state or abroad, our checklist can take some of the stress out of getting ready.

Gather Important Documents

- Make sure driver's licenses or other forms of identification are current.
- Have travel documents like airline tickets printed and on hand electronically.
- Print your emergency contact list in case your phone is lost or damaged.
- If traveling outside the country, get passports and necessary vaccinations.

Get Your Finances Ready

- Make sure bills are paid or scheduled before you leave to avoid late fees.
- Download the USAA Mobile App to manage your accounts while you're away.
- Set up travel notifications to avoid credit or debit card blocks or declines.
- If traveling outside the country, consider getting a USAA Chip Credit Card.
- Take some cash to have on hand and to exchange currency, if necessary.

Prepare Your Home

- Be sure to set your security system before you leave. Consider getting a security system if you don't have one.
- Unplug major electronics, or those on timers, like coffee makers.
- Turn your water heater to vacation mode and adjust your thermostat.
- Place a hold on mail and newspaper subscriptions.
- Consider having someone check your home and water your plants while you're gone.
- Wait until you return from traveling to post your photos to social media sites.
- If you are traveling in the winter, check out some of USAA's winter proofing tips.

Find Care for Your Pet

- Find reliable care for your pet while you're away.
- If you're taking your pet with you, make sure its shots and paperwork are up to date.
- Pack any food, medications, toys, crates, leashes and bowls your pet may need.
- Consider what you'll do with your pet while you're gone sightseeing.

Vacation Checklist - Continued

Get Your Electronics Ready

- Check with your mobile service provider on phone usage and international calling plans.
- Check camera equipment to make sure it's working and get extra batteries and memory cards if needed.
- Don't forget to pack chargers, adapters and headphones.

Put Technology to Good Use

- Download useful travel apps, music and games to smartphones or tablets.
- Take pictures with your smartphone to help remember things like your airport parking spot, luggage and its contents, hotel room number, and the outside of your hotel.
- Program street addresses and phone numbers of key travel locations into your smartphone.
- Email your itinerary and contact information to a family member or friend.
- Record your travel dates in your calendar with the confirmation numbers within the calendar planners.
- Download your airline's app, if available, to check in, check flight status and obtain electronic boarding passes.
- If travelling internationally, find apps that may help with language translation, money conversion rates, global tipping guides and fuel costs.

Pack the Necessities

- Take clothes and shoes that are suitable for the weather and activities at your destination.
- Consider washing clothes during your trip to lessen the amount of items you need to pack.
- Refill and pack prescription medications.
- Check TSA travel restrictions.
- If possible, take an extra pair of prescription eyeglasses or contacts.
- Pack toiletries, sunscreen, beauty supplies and over-the-counter medications.
- Consider taking a backpack so you can easily carry and access items during your trip.
- Plastic baggies come in handy for transporting items like cosmetics in your luggage.
- Consider taking a small travel pillow, blanket, umbrella or poncho.