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## LEAVING ON SUMMER VACATION? TIPS TO KEEP BURGLARS FROM YOUR HOME

A few more home safety tips for when you're out of town or not:

☞ Ensure areas around exterior doors are well-lit, with motion-activated lights. Easy mount solar-powered motion lights are available.

☞ Trim back shrubs near doors and windows so sightlines aren't blocked. Don't give criminals a place to hide.

☞ Keep window blinds and drapes closed. Criminals

can easily size up homes by looking in uncovered windows.

☞ If open windows are needed for ventilation, install a "stop" in the frame that prevents the window from being opened more than 4 inches. One method is drilling a hole through the upper frame and putting a removable screw in the hole.

☞ Ensure door hinges face the inside of the home. If

hinges are on the outside, consider installing non-removable pins.

☞ Don't leave your garage door open in your car. If someone steals the opener, they can then get in your house.

☞ Consider locking the door from the garage to the house.

☞ Keep ladders and tools in a secure area, and keep storage sheds locked.



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## GENERAL HOME SAFETY

Due to the growing popularity of in-home care for seniors, it's important to make sure you and your loved one are aware of the potential dangers present in the home for seniors living alone and prepare accordingly.

You can help prevent falls and accidents by making changes to unsafe areas in the home with these tips.

The following home safety tips can help keep you and your loved ones safe:

☞ Consider a medical alert or a buddy system.

☞ Keep a fire extinguisher and smoke detector on every floor.

☞ Never smoke when alone or in bed.

☞ Always get up slowly after

sitting or lying down. Take your time, and make sure you have your balance.

☞ Wear proper fitting shoes with low heels.

☞ Use a correctly measured walking aid.

☞ Remove or tack down all scatter rugs.

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## TENANTS' MOVE-IN AND MOVE-OUT GARBAGE SHOULD BE PUT OUT WITH RESIDUAL GARBAGE

### QUESTION

Eight years ago I moved from Sandy Hill to the suburbs, but I just recently moved back to Sandy Hill. I remember that the garbage situation was terrible in Sandy Hill back then. Is it still bad? What can I do to try to keep my street looking respectable this April when many of the students move out and others move in?

### ANSWER

Thanks to information campaigns about proper garbage disposal, noise control and other aspects of community living, things have improved a lot in Sandy Hill over the last four to six years. (The City of Ottawa has also stepped up enforcement of the Solid Waste Bylaw and the Noise Bylaw.)

Each August and April, the Eastern Ontario Landlord Organization works with the city to put out a flyer advising Sandy Hill tenants, landlords and long-standing residents about the garbage rules, and especially about the collection dates for the next month. Those are the weeks when move-out or move-in garbage used to be a problem.

The flyer points out that putting out garbage on the wrong day can cost a person \$300 to \$500 or more. The

lower amount is the amount of the "set fine" for a ticket from the city. The higher amount would include a charge by the city for the cleanup of garbage put out at the wrong time. Landlords can be subject to those charges if their tenants fail to comply with the garbage timing rules.

Most move-in or move-out garbage is residual garbage, which is collected with the blue bin. For curbside collection in Sandy Hill, the upcoming residual garbage collection dates are Tuesday, April 9, Wednesday, April 24, and Tuesday, May 7. April 16 and April 30 are for the black box and green bin, not residual garbage like move-in or move-out garbage. (For bin collection, weekly pickup is still the norm.)

People who live in other areas of the city can check their dates at [www.ottawa.ca/en/residents](http://www.ottawa.ca/en/residents). People can sign up for automatic garbage reminders on their cell-phones or electronic devices.

Residents are only supposed to put out their garbage and recycling after 6 p.m. the day before the collection day, and should have it out by 7 a.m. by collection day.

If a tenant or other resident is unable to put out their garbage at the right

time, they need to make other arrangements for it to go out at the right time. That can be with a neighbour or with a tenant's landlord. Until the evening before the collection date, garbage must be stored inside or behind the building.

As a resident who is following the garbage rules, you can help the city keep our streets clean. If you see someone putting out garbage on the wrong day, you could consider saying in a friendly manner, "This isn't garbage day. You might want to store the garbage at the back of the building so that you will not get a fine from the city".

If you do not feel safe to do that, or the suggestion does not work, residents can call 311 to report garbage put out on the wrong day. (As a practical matter, the city will generally not take action if garbage is put out during the afternoon before a collection day.)

When everyone respects the rules, life is better for them and for their neighbours.

**SOURCE BY: DICKIE & LYMAN LLP; WHO PRACTICE LANDLORD/TENANT LAW AND OTHER AREAS OF LAW**

### GENERAL HOME SAFETY

- {} Remove electrical or telephone cords from traffic areas
- {} Avoid using slippery wax on floors, wipe up spills promptly.

- {} Avoid standing on ladders or chairs.
- {} Have sturdy rails for all stairs inside and outside the house.
- {} Use only non-glare 100 watt or greater incandescent bulbs (or the fluorescent equivalents).

- {} Make sure that all stairs cases have good lighting with switches at the top and bottom.
- {} Make sure that staircase steps should have a non-slip surface.

## SPRING SAFETY TIPS

Spring is a great time to start thinking about the necessary precautions one should be taking around and outside the home to protect against fire-related hazards and the dangers of house fires.

Winter can be tough on a home and those that live in it, but don't let that excitement get in the way of making smart decisions about fire safety.

### Remove Fire Hazards Inside Your Home

☞ Test your home's smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.

☞ Discontinue the use of any electrical appliances with frayed cords, and make sure they are not extended under rugs or other flammable materials.

☞ Water often leaks into homes during the winter months; it is a good idea to check for water around electrical appliances as well.

☞ Take a moment to inspect the lint trap and exhaust duct of the clothes dryer for debris.

### Take Precautions Outside your Home

☞ Remove dead leaves and other flammable debris from around foundations and from under decks, porches or stairs.

☞ Outdoor work areas such as garages and tool sheds should be kept organized, and flammable materials should be stored in fire-related containers away from children.

☞ Grills should be checked for rust, insects, spiders, grease and other debris before use.

☞ Worn gas hoses should be replaced.

☞ Never grill indoors, in a garage, breezeway or carport. Grills should only be used 10 feet away from your house or any building.

### Spring Season Fire Prevention and Safety

The arrival of spring brings with it warmer temperatures and the opportunity to be more fire safe at home. As you plan your spring cleaning, it's important to also address fire hazards and take additional safety precautions.

## HOW TO PREVENT RATS FROM BECOMING A PROBLEM IN YOUR HOUSE

Having rodents, like rats, in your home is not a pleasant experience. Luckily, there are many things you can do to prevent them from damaging your home. Rodents need shelter, food, and water to survive, all of which are things that our homes can provide for these creatures. Take these precautions to get rid of the problem before it even starts.

### Don't Leave Food Lying Around

This is important both in and outside of the house. Ensure that garbage cans are covered at all times and that there no cracks or holes in them. Inside the home, make sure food is stored in containers that are airtight so that creatures cannot get into them. This is a good idea to do with

dog or cat food as well since they are usually stored in bags. Teach your children to pick up their food after themselves as well!

### Get Rid Of Moisture

There are lots of places in the home that can store moisture, which can cause a rodent infestation. By getting rid of the moisture, you can prevent creatures from making your home their home. If you notice a leaky drain or pipe, be sure to take care of it right away. The more moisture in the home, the more likely you will have a rodent problem at some point.

### Check Out The Attic or Basement

Some common places for rodents to live are attics, basements, and small crawl spaces. Typically, people store

things in these areas, and it is a perfect place to these rodents to live. They tend to be damp and have things that rats can eat through. Be sure these spaces in your home are ventilated so they can stay dry. Be careful what you store in these places as well and take inventory of what is in there regularly. If you notice small pieces of cardboard, stuffing, and other items put together to look like a nest, then you might want to consider setting traps or calling in the experts.

Remember that if your house has rats, it could be a problem with the houses around you as well. You might not be the only one suffering from this annoying issue.

## RECIPE OF THE MONTH

### Orange Cranberry Cake

1 pkg. 15 oz. Yellow cake mix  
4 eggs  
¾ cup orange juice  
½ cup canola or vegetable oil  
¼ cup water  
1 cup dried cranberries  
Powdered sugar (optional)

Preheat oven to 350F, grease and flour 12 cup (10 inch) bundt pan.

Combine cake mix, eggs, orange juice, oil and water in large bowl; beat 1-2 minutes or until well blended. Stir in cranberries. Pour batter into prepared pan.

Bake about 40 minutes or until toothpick inserted near center comes out clean. Cool in pan 10 minutes; invert onto wire rack to cool completely. Sprinkle with powdered sugar, if desired.

## COOKING SAFETY

- ⚠ Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol, don't use the stove or stovetop.
- ⚠ Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, boiling, or broiling food.
- ⚠ If you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check regularly, remain in the kitchen while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- ⚠ Keep anything that can catch fire - oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains - away from your stovetop.
- ⚠ Call 911 or the local emergency number after you leave; close doors behind you when leaving (if possible) to help contain the fire.
- ⚠ If you happen to have a grease fire in the kitchen, the last thing you should do is put water on it. Turn the

Heat Off - Don't try to move the pot.

- ⚠ Keep a lit nearby when you're cooking to smother small grease fires. Smother the fire by sliding the lid over the pan and turn off the stovetop. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- ⚠ For an over fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.
- ⚠ A large number of fires start in the kitchen from **cooking** with oil. Be careful when deep-frying foods. ...
- ⚠ When removing lids on hot pans, tilt them away from you to protect your face and hands from steam. If there is an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing.
- ⚠ Keep smoke alarms connected while cooking. Smoke alarms can save lives. Make sure smoke alarms are installed and working.

## JOKE CORNER

(Q) Why was the birthday cake as hard as a rock?

(A) Because it was marble cake!

(Q) Why are bunnies the luckiest animals?

(A) Because they each have four rabbits feet!

(Q) Where do lightning bolts go on dates?

(A) To cloud 9

(Q) What is the Mexican weather report?

(A) Chili today and hot tamale

I am not lazy, I am on Energy Saving Mode.

⚠ Working smoke alarms will provide you with the early warning you will need to escape a fire. Install them and make sure the batteries are replaced at least once a year.

⚠ Install carbon monoxide alarms near all sleeping areas.

⚠ Stay in the kitchen while cooking, keep the stove area clear and keep a pot lid handy to "Put a Lid on It" if a fire starts in a pan.

⚠ In case of fire, get out and call 911 immediately.

⚠ Blow out all the candles before leaving the room or going to bed. Use

## FIRE SAFETY TIPS

sturdy holders and keep candles up and away from children and pets.

⚠ Keep matches and lighters up out of sight and reach of children.

⚠ Ensure cigarettes are stubbed out and empty only cold cigarette butts in the trash.

⚠ Use power bars with built-in circuit breakers, never use damaged cords and keep heaters away from things

⚠ Excessive drinking contributes to fatal fires - watch everyone in your home who drinks excessively and them smokes or cooks.