

Leaving for Vacation Checklist

A Week to 48 Hours Before:

- Put a hold on the delivery of your mail, or ask someone to collect it for you (same goes for any packages that might be coming your way)
- Put a hold on the delivery of your newspapers
- Arrange pet sitter or kennel stay
- Pay bills
- Check toiletry/gear/clothes supply -- buy new items as needed
- Load up on reading material -- buy magazines and books, check out books from library, download books on Kindle/iPad
- Order and pick-up a refill on your medication if it'll run out while you're on your trip
- Let friends and family know about travel itinerary
- Arrange for a ride to the airport, or reserve a parking spot (if your airport is big enough for that to be needed -- not the case here in Tulsa!)

The Day Before:

- Throw away perishable food items from fridge, as well as any fruit/veggies that might go bad while you're away
- Notify alarm company that you'll be away
- Get all laundry done (including bed sheets -- nothing better than coming home to fresh sheets!)
- Check-in for flight online and print off boarding passes
- Print off driving directions (yeah, you can look these up on your phone, but there are plenty of times when your digital map of choice doesn't work properly)
- Write down/print off destination addresses
- Check weather of destination
- Confirm hotel reservations
- Confirm rental car reservations
- Program phone numbers you'll need into phone
- Download apps, music, and movies/shows for yourself and the kids
- Set up email away message
- Fully charge phone/tablet/laptop
- Call bank to let them know you're traveling
- Run the dishwasher
- Pack everything (minus what you'll be using on travel day) in your suitcase and carry-on bag

Morning of Departure:

Note: If you have a very early flight, some of these things should be done the night before. Just grab a protein bar and head out the door.

- Pack dopp kit after getting ready for the day

- Make sure all doors and windows are shut and locked
- Make sure the garbage disposable is clear of food scraps
- Take out last bag of trash to garbage can
- Wash any dishes you used for breakfast by hand and put away (really, protein bars are the way to go)
- Turn off lights and turn on timer for lights
- Unplug electronics
- Water house plants
- Set thermostat for away temperature (upper 70s in summer, upper 50s in winter -- the rule of thumb is 4 degrees off of what your normal temperature is)
- Close blinds and curtains
- [Double-check bags/clothing for loose ammunition](#)
- Be sure your EDC is TSA compliant; pack into suitcase the forbidden items that you normally carry on your person (pocket knife, gun, etc.)
- Double check that you have IDs and itinerary packed in carry-on bag

Check for items you often use right up until leaving, and end up forgetting:

- Medicine
- Sunglasses
- Wallet
- Phone

Suggested Packing Checklists

Dopp Kit:

- Travel bottle of shampoo
- Bar of your favorite soap
- Deodorant
- Toothbrush, toothpaste, floss
- Shaving supplies: razor, brush, and cream
- Nail clippers
- Lip balm
- Band aids
- Safety pins
- Aspirin or Tylenol
- Lint roller
- \$20 bill
- Extra pair of contact lenses
- Cologne
- Medications

Carry-on:

- Itinerary

- Smartphone power cords and adapter
- Paperback book/magazines
- Tablet/laptop and power cords
- Paper copy of driving directions
- A change of clean underwear
- Pens/pencils
- Notebooks
- Headphones
- Snacks

Baby/Toddler Bag:

- Diapers
- Diaper disposal bags
- Wipes
- Snacks
- Books (way, way more than you might think you'll need -- they'll go through 'em quick)
- Small toys
- Bottle/cup with built-in straw (sucking will help pop their ears)
- Benadryl and/or Tylenol ([see here for proper dosing](#))
- Toddler headphones
- Tablet with downloaded movies/shows

For more tips on traveling with babies and toddlers, [check out this post](#).