Before you go away

Prepare ahead of travel day so there is time to address a problem.

BEFORE LEAVING

- [ ] Walk through accessible plumbing areas. Address active leaks, running toilets and suspect appliance hoses before the trip.
- [ ] Let the dishwasher and washing machine finish while someone is home. Check around them for water afterward.
- [ ] Show a trusted contact the home's water shutoff and leave your plumber, utility and property-manager numbers.
- [ ] If you already use leak sensors, test them according to their instructions and check that alerts reach the intended person.
- [ ] Discuss any planned water shutoff with your plumber or property manager. Shared supplies, fire sprinklers, irrigation and appliances may need water. Follow equipment instructions; do not assume shutting everything off is suitable.

WHEN YOU GET BACK

- [ ] Check for moisture or unusual sounds before using appliances. If water was shut off, follow the agreed restart instructions; never energize an empty water heater.
- [ ] For an extended absence, ask your utility about returning plumbing to use and follow any current water advisories. Do not improvise a disinfection procedure.

This is a household handoff checklist, not a winterization or vacant-building procedure. A long vacancy needs a plan tailored to the property.

Trusted contact / phone

Agreed water and appliance plan

Return date / follow-up needed

Source: epa.gov/watersense/fix-leak-week
Source: Long Beach utility safety guide (water shutoff)