

Friday Night First 60

The Ultimate Arrival Protocol

The first hour at the cottage is often a chaotic sprint of hauling coolers and waking up utilities, but a single out-of-order step can instantly result in a burned-out water heater or a flooded floor.

Before you unpack the car, use this "Flight Deck" checklist to systemize your arrival, prevent expensive mechanical errors, and get from the driveway to the dock as fast as possible.



PHASE 1 & 2

From the road to the first 10

○ PHASE 1: THE CITY DEPARTURE (The Setup)

The speed of your arrival is determined by how you pack. Create a dedicated "First Hour Box" or tote bag that stays at the top of your trunk.

THE "FIRST HOUR BOX" CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Keys/Alarm Code: (Don't dig for them in the rain).
- ☐ Headlamps/Flashlights: (One per person).
- ☐ Toilet Paper: (2 rolls min—don't hunt in the dark).
- ☐ Hand Soap & Towel: (For the kitchen sink immediately).
- ☐ Bed Sheets: (Fitted, flat, pillowcases).
- ☐ The "Welcome" Snack/Drink: (Accessible hydration).
- ☐ Lighter/Matches: (For the BBQ or pilot lights).

○ PHASE 2: CRITICAL SYSTEMS (Minute 0-10)

Goal: Prevent damage and establish hygiene. Do not unpack the car yet.

1. THE ENTRY SCAN

- ☐ Unlock & Disarm: Enter code.
- ☐ The "Mouse Scan": first visual check.
 - If clear: Proceed. If droppings found: Spray/Disinfect immediately before putting anything down.

2. THE UTILITY SEQUENCE

- ☐ Main Power ON: Flip the main breaker (if off).
- ☐ Water Pump ON: Turn on the pump switch.
- ☐ The "Burp" (CRITICAL STEP): Go to the kitchen sink. Turn on the HOT tap. Expect sputtering/air. Wait until water flows steadily with no air bursts.
WHY: This confirms the hot water tank is full.
- ☐ Hot Water Breaker ON: Only flip this switch after the "Burp" is complete.
- WARNING: Turning this on with an empty tank will burn out the heating element instantly.
- ☐ Fridge ON: Plug in or check settings. Place "Welcome Drink" in the freezer.

PHASE 3 & 4

Settle In & Settle Down

○ **PHASE 3: ATMOSPHERE (Minute 10-30)**

Goal: Flush the "Stale Air" and clear the path.

- ☐ The Cross-Breeze: Open windows on opposite sides of the cottage (North/South) to create a vacuum draft.
- ☐ Fans ON: Switch ceiling fans to high.
- ☐ Thermostat: Set Heat or A/C to your target temperature.
- ☐ The Porch Sweep: Sweep cobwebs off the front door, the path to the BBQ, and the path to the dock.

Note: Do this now so you don't walk into a web with your hands full of coolers later.

○ **PHASE 4: ESSENTIALS (Minute 30-60)**

Goal: Unload and prep for sleep.

- ☐ Cooler Dump: Move all perishables to the fridge immediately.
- ☐ The "Bed Rule": Make the master bed NOW.
- The Mantra: "I will hate doing this at midnight."
- ☐ Unload Car: Bring in the remaining bags and luggage.

MINUTE 60: THE ARRIVAL

- ☐ Retrieve Drink: Grab your cold beverage from the freezer.
- ☐ Go to Dock: Sit down. Exhale.
- ☐ Welcome Home.

WANT TO SKIP THE LIST?

Arriving late? Don't want to spend your first hour working?

Book a "Turn-Key" Arrival with Kacaba Cottage Care.

We handle the mouse scan, the complex water systems, the airing out, and the bed making. You just turn the key and pour the drink.