

The Complete New Home Safety and Security Checklist

Kitchen Safety Checklist

- Inspect and clean appliances.
- Check and clean the range hood.
- Clean coils and vents.
- Check and replace water filters.
- Make sure circuits aren't overloaded to prevent potential electrical fires.
- Inspect drains and garbage disposal.
- Install safety latches or locks on cabinets.
- Purchase a fire extinguisher.
- Test smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Post an emergency-contact list on the fridge.

Bathroom Safety Checklist

- Check pipes for clogs and leaks.
- Test faucets and toilets.
- Test and clean showerheads.
- Check caulking for proper seals.
- Locate the main shut-off valve.
- Purchase a first aid kit.
- Secure medications.
- Prevent falls with non-slip decals, grab bars, and non-slip bath mats.
- Inspect for mold.



Proactive Fall Protection

If you or someone in your home is at higher risk for falls, consider a medical alert system with automatic fall detection.

Basement Safety Checklist

- Find and label your electrical system, main breakers, and circuit panels.
- Tune up the HVAC system.
- Inspect and maintain the water heater.
- Clean air ducts and vents.
- Change air filters.
- Look for foundation damage or signs of flooding.
- Purchase a sump pump for potential flooding.
- Insulate exposed pipes.
- Check for drafts and loose weather seals.
- Check window and door locks and add sensors.
- Add proper lighting.
- Secure handrails.
- Add non-skid tape to stairs.

Hallway Safety Checklist

- Check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Secure rugs with non-skid mats or adhesive tape.
- Add nightlights with motion sensors.

Bedroom and Living Spaces Safety Checklist

- Create an emergency plan.
- Compile a home inventory to save time and stress from potential damage or break-ins.
- Check smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Check switch plates and outlet covers.
- Get a fireproof safe.
- Repair damaged walls.
- Check for lead-based paint (especially in older homes).
- Hire a chimney sweep.

Outdoor Safety Checklist

- Change the locks or upgrade to smart locks.
- Inspect the roof and determine if repairs are needed.
- Add security lighting (motion detection / smart lightbulbs).
- Ensure gates work, close tightly, and have a secure latch.
- Consider adding two gate locks (top & bottom).
- Repair any exterior damage.
- Inspect rain gutters and downspouts.
- Avoid ice dams in winter using tools like the Gutter Sense Gutter Cleaning Tool.
- Check window screens.
- Prune plants and trees.
- Secure small entrances.
- Check for cracks.
- Lock up hazardous materials.
- Secure tools.
- Make house numbers visible.



Research Security Cameras and Alarm Systems

Burglars have reported that they skip homes with security cameras and alarm systems. Find out what security systems are available, and identify which type makes sense for your home.

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Secure Your Doors

- Change the door locks and install a deadbolt.
- Add a strike plate.
- Upgrade to smart locks.
- Boost security with a video doorbell.
- Reinforce sliding glass doors with window bars or dowels in the track.
- Add a door sensor or glass break sensor.

Secure Your Windows

- Add window locks.
- Reinforce glass with window security film.
- Install window or glass break sensors.
- Add window bars.
- Plant prickly bushes under first-floor windows (but be sure to keep them trimmed).

Light up the Landscape

- Use motion-activated lights.
- Save energy with solar-powered lights.
- Put outdoor lights on a timer.
- Check your landscaping for hiding spots.
- Clear away or prune large trees and shrubs.
- Keep entry points visible from the street.

Set up a Security System

- Get a feel for your neighborhood.
- Get a home safety evaluation of your home.
- Check out your home security options (DIY systems).
- Choose a home security system.

Extra Home Security Considerations

- DIY installation vs. professional installation
- Customer service and brand reputation
- Smart home capabilities
- Up-front and monthly costs
- Extra smoke and carbon monoxide monitoring



Did you know?

Adding a security system can also increase your home's value in the long run while protecting you from costly burglaries. And home automation can help save you money on lighting, heating, and cooling expenses too.

Garage Safety Checklist

- Replace automatic garage door openers clipped to visors, which thieves could use. Instead, opt for a keychain remote or use home automation—and never leave the garage door open.
 - Smart garage door opener
 - Garage door sensors
 - Automatic garage door closers
 - Automatic garage door locks
- Secure garage doors with extra locks.
- Use a Garage Shield to cover your garage door's emergency release cord.
- Install motion-activated floodlights.
- Cover windows with interior curtains and blinds. Or consider an adhesive window covering like this Artscape Etched Glass Window Film.
- Protect your service entry and home entry doors with a single-sided deadbolt and reinforced strike plate, using a minimum of 3-inch screws to secure it.



Pro Tip

If you're worried about yourself or another family member getting locked out of the house, leave an extra key with a trusted neighbor. Even if your chosen friend doesn't live very close, it's better to have an emergency key there than nowhere at all.

Notes:



Buy Smart. Live Safe.

Home security made easy--we do the research so you don't have to.

safewise.com