

# 5 THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU MOVE INTO YOUR NEW HOME

*Home safety should be one of the first things you think about when moving into a new home. It can sometimes feel overwhelming, given all of the things you need to do when moving in, so to simplify things, here are 5 key smart home solutions that will protect — and even increase — your home's value, as well as keep your family secure.*



## #1 CHANGE YOUR LOCKS

According to the National Crime Prevention Council, it is important to change the locks, garage codes and install deadbolts when moving into a new home to avoid any unwelcome visitors or break-ins. A rapidly growing number of new homeowners are switching to smart locks. Smart locks will let you know exactly who is coming and going from your property by providing unique codes that can be tracked, and you can lock and unlock the door from your smartphone. “The first and most important thing to do to protect your home is to change your locks. Why not be smart about it?” states Dave LaMere, CEO of Smart Homz, a local home tech company based in Ramsey.

## #2 LOCATE WATER SHUT-OFF VALVES AND CHECK FOR LEAKS

Learn where and how to shut off your water in case of an emergency. It's a good idea to inspect pipes wherever visible, for rust stains, corrosion and leakage after moving in. Here's a good test: check your water meter at the beginning and end of a two-hour window in which no water is being used in your house. If the reading is different, you have a leak. “Installing a leak detection system like Water Hero, helps our customers prevent damaging water leaks and failing water heaters that can cause major damage and cost thousands to repair,” says LaMere.





### #3 TEST THE SMOKE AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS

Test all the smoke and CO detectors in your new home. According to the US Fire Administration, there should be at least one on each floor. “Never assume the existing detectors are in working order. You can have a professional come and evaluate each one, because you can never be too safe,” LaMere says. You also have the option to upgrade to smart smoke and CO detectors that send alerts to your phone, so you know the minute there is an issue.



### #4 HAVE A HOME SECURITY SYSTEM INSTALLED

There are many options when it comes to modern home security systems that range from cameras you monitor yourself, to service-supported alarms that will call the police for you. Choose whatever will work best for you, your family and your budget. Focus on the features that matter most: a doorbell camera is a great way to see who is coming and going or if a package arrived. “Overall, the main reason why you need a home security system is simple — it provides you with the peace of mind in knowing that your family and your home are secure, whether you are at home or away,” states LaMere.



### #5 GREET THE NEIGHBORS

When you have a second, stop by for a friendly chat and let them know who you are and if you have kids or pets. With all the activity of previous owners moving out and you moving in, the neighbors may not think twice about strangers in or near your home. It's the neighborly thing to do, and it means there's a second set of eyes on your home.

A little time spent improving your home's safety in the beginning may help make your new home ownership a happier and more rewarding experience. Best wishes in your new home!