

# 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:

