

6 Must-Have Items for Your Home Safety Checklist

Whether you're buying a new home, or have been in your existing space long-term, consider these handy tips when it comes to keeping loved ones—and property—secure.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

These are essential items when it comes to protection from smoke, fire and carbon monoxide poisoning.

- Install devices on every floor and outside bedrooms.
- Conduct intermittent device testing.
- Replace batteries once per year.
- Replace smoke detectors every ten years, and carbon monoxide detectors every seven to ten years.*

**National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)*



Fireplaces and Chimneys

Checking the following will ensure proper ventilation and help you identify any necessary repairs.

- Have your chimney swept once per year.
- Perform regular (wood and gas) fireplace cleanings.
- Have a professional conduct a yearly inspection of your fireplace, chimney and furnace.



3 Windows and Door Locks

Check these frequently to safeguard from burglaries and accidents.

- Replace any broken and/or loose locks.
- Ensure doorknobs are secure and in working order.
- Safety bar windows should have a quick-release for emergencies.
- Consider outer storm doors for secondary protection.
- Look into glass break detectors and motion sensors.
- Research smart door locks.*

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One important benefit of such devices is you can provide the code to local authorities for emergencies.

4 Emergency Planning

We don't want emergencies to happen, but if they do, consider these items for quick action:

- Install an accessible, working fire extinguisher.
- Map out a home emergency escape plan.
- Post a visible emergency contact list.
- Invest in a First Aid kit.



5 Implement a Smart Home

Investing in a comprehensive security system with the following smart home technologies provides added peace of mind while you're away:

- Automatic door locks
- Remote video and doorbell camera monitoring
- Thermostat adjustment
- Motion sensor verification/detection

6 Garage Security

Including security for your garage is also a wise decision to deter would-be thieves and vandals.

- Garage doors should be kept closed and locked.
- Add alarm monitoring capabilities.
- Keep security codes and remotes in a safe spot.
- Use exterior motion sensor lights.

