

New Home Checklist

Checklist · 25 items · 7 sections

Buying a new home is exciting, but there's a lot to do after closing. This new home checklist covers everything: from the safety and security steps on day one to maintenance tasks, address updates, and home setup during your first year.

Open the editable version online:

<https://genechecklist.com/checklist/new-home-checklist>

SAFETY & SECURITY (DAY 1)

- Change all exterior door locks and deadbolts
HIGH
Previous owners may have given out spare keys: re-keying is inexpensive and essential
- Change garage door codes and program new remotes
HIGH
- Test all smoke detectors: replace batteries in all units
HIGH
- Test carbon monoxide detectors: install if not present
HIGH
- Locate and label main water shutoff valve
HIGH
- Locate and label electrical circuit breaker box: label each breaker
HIGH
- Locate gas shutoff valve and know how to turn it off
HIGH
- Purchase and place a fire extinguisher in the kitchen
HIGH

UTILITIES & SERVICES

- Transfer utilities to your name: electricity, gas, water, trash
HIGH
- Set up internet and cable or streaming service
HIGH
- Set up homeowner's insurance if not already done at closing
HIGH

ADDRESS CHANGES

- Submit USPS mail forwarding from old address
HIGH
- Update driver's license and vehicle registration with new address
HIGH
- Update address with bank, credit cards, and employer
HIGH

FIRST MONTH MAINTENANCE

- Replace HVAC air filter: note filter size for future replacements
HIGH
- Test all GFCI outlets in bathrooms, kitchen, and garage (press test/reset button)
HIGH
- Run water to all fixtures: check for slow drains or leaks under sinks
HIGH
- Clean or replace refrigerator water filter
- Deep clean the entire house before furniture arrives
HIGH

ANNUAL MAINTENANCE SETUP

- Service HVAC system: schedule annual tune-up
HIGH
- Set up pest control service if needed in your area
- Schedule a chimney inspection if home has a fireplace

NEIGHBORHOOD & HOA

- Learn your HOA rules and dues schedule if applicable
HIGH
- Introduce yourself to neighbors

APPLIANCES & WARRANTIES

- Register products and appliances for warranty