HOMEOWNER SAFETY CHECKLIST

Tips for homeowners to help keep your new home safe from burglars.



When you purchase a new home, it's important to do everything possible to make that new home as safe as possible from potential thieves.

Moving vans and ownership changes might look appealing to burglars looking for an easy target. Follow the tips below to start protecting your home the day you move in.

CHANGE THE LOCKS



This may seem obvious, but in the busyness of a recent move it's easy to forget to change all of the locks on your new home.

While the previous homeowner may hand you their keys at closing, you can't guarantee that they didn't give keys to their friends or relatives. It's always best to change the locks so you know exactly who has access to your new home.



INSTALL SECURITY CAMERAS OR MOTION-SENSOR LIGHTING

Home security cameras or outdoor lighting that turns on when something moves by can help you keep an eye on the area surrounding your house. They are also a pretty good deterrent to potential burglars.

HIDE VALUABLES

Don't leave large, valuable items like electronics outside or near open windows for anyone to see and come back for when you're not at home.

This is also a good reminder to invest in curtains shortly after your move.



MAINTAIN THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME

Overgrown bushes and landscaping can become hiding places for potential burglars.

Take time to trim the bushes and ensure the landscaping around your home is low and well-kept.



MEET THE NEIGHBORS

Take some time to meet and get to know your neighbors. By doing this, you'll know if someone does not belong and is potentially up to something in your neighborhood.

This also gives a group of people who can look out for your and your home.





NEVER HIDE A KEY

That fake rock or plant on the front stoop isn't fooling anyone. Give a spare key to your neighbor or someone close by, so you aren't inviting any unwanted visitors into your house.

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