

New Home Checklist

The first tasks to do after moving into a new home, from testing utilities to changing the locks.

Get Utilities On & Tested

- ☐ Confirm electricity, gas and water are switched on in your name
- ☐ Test every light switch, outlet and major appliance
- ☐ Run hot water at each tap and check water pressure
- ☐ Confirm heating and air conditioning both work
 - Test before the first cold or hot night so you have time to call a technician
- ☐ Verify internet, cable and phone service are active

Secure the Home

- ☐ Change or rekey every exterior door lock
- ☐ Test all window and patio-door locks
- ☐ Check that the garage door opener and codes are reset
- ☐ Set up or reset any alarm system and codes
- ☐ Replace batteries and test smoke and carbon-monoxide alarms

Find the Essentials

- ☐ Locate and label the main water shut-off valve
- ☐ Find the breaker box and map which breaker controls each room
- ☐ Locate the gas shut-off and the water heater
- ☐ Find the fuse for the outdoor outlets and sprinklers
- ☐ Note where the HVAC filter goes and what size it takes

Deep Clean Before Unpacking

- ☐ Wipe down and disinfect all kitchen cabinets and drawers
- ☐ Scrub the bathrooms, including the toilet, tub and shower
- ☐ Clean inside the refrigerator, oven and dishwasher
- ☐ Vacuum or mop all floors and wipe baseboards
- ☐ Replace toilet seats and showerheads if you prefer
 - Cheap, quick swaps that make a used home feel like yours

Update Your Address & Accounts

- ☐ Set up mail forwarding from your old address
- ☐ Update your address with banks, cards and your employer
- ☐ Change the address on your driver's license and vehicle registration
- ☐ Update subscriptions, deliveries and insurance policies

Settle In

- ☐ Introduce yourself to the immediate neighbors
- ☐ Locate the nearest hospital, pharmacy and grocery store
- ☐ Find out the trash and recycling collection days
- ☐ Save local emergency, utility and handyman numbers
- ☐ Walk the property and note anything that needs repair