

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