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18 TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR NEW HOME



FIRE PROTECTION

1. Install smoke/carbon monoxide alarms on every level. Test monthly and replace batteries each year.
2. Buy an ABC multipurpose fire extinguisher for the kitchen, where half of all fires occur. Check pressure annually.
3. Plug major appliances into wall outlets, not extension cords, which can overheat.
4. Create escape plans for all rooms and place escape ladders in upstairs bedrooms.



BURGLARY PROTECTION

5. Change locks on exterior doors and confirm that all doors and windows lock securely.
6. Add security bars to sliding glass doors.
7. Trim shrubs near home to reduce spots where burglars might hide.
8. Install motion-detector lighting to illuminate dark areas.
9. Consider adding a home alarm system.



FLOOD PROTECTION

10. Place wireless water alarms under washing machine and sinks.
11. Install flood-safe hoses on washing machine.
12. When leaving on trips, turn off water at main valve to prevent floods.
13. Confirm that homeowners' insurance covers water and mold damage due to leaks and sewer backups. Some policies don't.



STORM PROTECTION

14. Trim trees and shrubs so weakened branches won't fall on home or be propelled into windows by high winds.
15. Install downspout extensions to carry heavy rains away from the foundation.
16. If you evacuate when a dangerous storm hits, turn off utilities to deter flooding and fires. (ready.gov/utility-shut-safety)



WEAR-AND-TEAR PROTECTION

17. Inspect inside and outside of home monthly for signs of damage.
18. Repair/replace broken items before small problems become serious ones.

SOURCES: RED CROSS, SAFEWISE.COM, HOUSE LOGIC, READY.GOV


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