

HOME SECURITY ESSENTIALS CHECKLIST

A Comprehensive Guide to Protecting Your Home & Family

Free download available at [Smart Home HQ](#)

SECTION 1: EXTERIOR SECURITY ASSESSMENT

Front Entry Points

- **Doors:**

- Solid core or metal doors installed
- Deadbolt locks (1-inch minimum throw)
- Strike plates secured with 3-inch screws
- Peephole or doorbell camera present
- Hinges on interior side or with security pins
- No mail slot large enough for hand entry

- **Windows:**

- All ground-floor windows lock securely
- Key locks on sliding windows
- Window security film applied
- Laminated glass on vulnerable windows
- Window stops/pins for sliding windows
- Window sensors/alarms installed

- **Lighting:**

- Motion-activated lights at all entry points
- Pathway lighting from street to door
- Timer lights for evening hours
- Solar lights in dark areas

- Porch light with camera capability

Perimeter Security

- Fencing/Gates:**

- Fence in good repair (no gaps/holes)
- Gate locks functional
- No hiding spots near entry points
- Clear "No Trespassing" signs if desired

- Landscaping:**

- Bushes trimmed below window level
- Trees trimmed away from roof/upper windows
- No large shrubs near entry points
- Gravel pathways (makes noise when walked on)

- Garage/Outbuildings:**

- Garage door closes completely
- Garage door opener secured (change code annually)
- Side garage door has deadbolt
- Sheds/outbuildings locked
- Ladders stored inside locked garage

SECTION 2: INTERIOR SECURITY SYSTEMS

Alarm System

- **Basic Components:**
 - Control panel in accessible location
 - Door/window sensors on all ground-floor entries
 - Motion detectors in main traffic areas
 - Glass break sensors near large windows
 - Key fobs for family members
 - Yard sign/window decals displayed
- **Monitoring:**
 - Professional monitoring service active
 - Self-monitoring app installed and tested
 - Backup cellular connection available
 - Battery backup for power outages

Camera System

- **Camera Placement:**
 - Front door coverage
 - Back door coverage
 - Garage/driveway coverage
 - Side yard coverage
 - Common area interior cameras (optional)
 - Camera angles checked for blind spots
- **Camera Features:**
 - Night vision capability
 - Motion detection alerts

- Two-way audio if desired
- Weatherproof rating for exterior cameras
- Local or cloud storage configured

Smart Home Integration

- Automation:**

- Smart locks on entry doors
- Smart lights on timers/vacation mode
- Smart thermostat with away mode
- Smart plugs for electronics/appliances
- All devices on secure Wi-Fi network

SECTION 3: DAILY SECURITY HABITS

Morning Routine

- Check all doors/windows are locked before leaving
- Arm security system when last person leaves
- Close garage door completely
- Move valuable items out of plain sight
- Adjust smart home to "Away" mode

Evening Routine

- Lock all doors/windows before bedtime
- Arm security system for night
- Close/lock pet doors
- Turn on exterior lighting
- Check camera feeds if expecting deliveries

Vacation Preparation

- **Before Leaving:**

- Stop mail/newspaper delivery
- Arrange lawn care/snow removal
- Set multiple light timers
- Unplug unnecessary electronics
- Adjust thermostat
- Notify trusted neighbor
- Double-check all locks

- **While Away:**

- Have neighbor collect packages
- Arrange for trash bins to be moved
- Check cameras remotely

- Avoid social media location posts

SECTION 4: FAMILY SAFETY PLAN

Emergency Contacts

- Local police non-emergency: _____
- Fire department: _____
- Nearest hospital: _____
- Trusted neighbor: _____
- Family out-of-town contact: _____

Emergency Procedures

- **Fire Escape Plan:**
 - Two exits from every bedroom identified
 - Meeting place established outside
 - Practice drills conducted quarterly
 - Escape ladders for upper floors
- **Intruder Response:**
 - Safe room identified (with lock/phone)
 - Code word for danger situations
 - 911 call procedure practiced
 - Weapon safety plan (if applicable)

Child Safety

- **Education:**
 - Never open door to strangers
 - How to use security system
 - Emergency contact numbers memorized
 - What to do if followed
 - Internet safety rules

- **Home Alone Rules (if applicable):**

- Check-in times established
- Door answering protocol
- Emergency procedures reviewed
- Approved visitors list

SECTION 5: **VALUABLE PROTECTION**

Document Security

- **Important Documents:**

- Passports in fireproof safe
- Birth certificates secured
- Social security cards protected
- Property deeds/insurance in safe
- Digital copies in secure cloud storage

- **Inventory:**

- Home inventory with photos/videos
- Serial numbers documented
- Receipts for major purchases saved
- Jewelry/appraisal documents secured

Financial Protection

- **Identity Theft Prevention:**

- Shred sensitive documents
- Credit freeze considered
- Bank alerts for unusual activity
- Strong, unique passwords for accounts
- Two-factor authentication enabled

SECTION 6: MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE

Monthly Checks

- Test all door/window locks
- Test alarm system components
- Check camera angles/clean lenses
- Replace batteries in sensors
- Review security camera footage

Quarterly Tasks

- Change garage door opener code
- Update security system codes
- Test smoke/carbon monoxide detectors
- Practice emergency drills
- Review/update emergency contacts

Annual Maintenance

- Professional security system check
- Tree/shrub trimming
- Exterior lighting assessment
- Safe combination changes
- Insurance policy review

SECTION 7: SECURITY UPGRADE PLANNING

Priority 1 (Immediate)

- Install deadbolts on all exterior doors
- Add motion lights to dark areas
- Create basic emergency plan
- Document valuables with photos

Priority 2 (Next 3 Months)

- Install security cameras at main entries
- Add window locks/sensors
- Set up smart lighting timers
- Create family emergency binder

Priority 3 (Next 6-12 Months)

- Install comprehensive alarm system
- Add smart locks
- Implement full camera coverage
- Professional security assessment

RESOURCES & CONTACTS

Emergency Services:

- Police Emergency: 911
- Police Non-Emergency: _____
- Fire Department: _____
- Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

Local Contacts:

- Security Company: _____
- Locksmith: _____
- Alarm Monitoring: _____
- Trusted Neighbor: _____

Online Resources:

[Smart Home HQ Best Security Cameras](#)

[Smart Home HQ Best Smart Lighting](#)

[Smart Home HQ Best Smart Locks](#)

NOTES & CUSTOMIZATION

Home-Specific Considerations:

- Pet safety needs: _____
- Special needs accommodations: _____
- Unique property features: _____
- Neighborhood watch participation: Yes No

Security Goals for This Year:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Completed By: _____ Date: _____ Next Review

Date: _____

BONUS: Quick Reference Emergency Card

(Cut out and keep near phones)

IN EMERGENCY: DIAL 911

Our Safe Meeting Place: _____

Emergency Contacts:

1. _____ (____) -
2. _____ (____) -
3. _____ (____) -

Security Code: _____ **Alarm Passcode:** _____

Medical Information: Allergies: _____ Medications: _____ Doctor:

How to Use This Checklist:

1. **Print** a copy for each floor of your home
2. **Complete** one section per week to avoid overwhelm
3. **Involve** all family members in the process
4. **Schedule** quarterly reviews to update and maintain
5. **Share** with neighbors to improve community safety

Remember: Security is a process, not a one-time event. Regular reviews and updates keep your home protected as your family and technology evolve.

**For professional security system recommendations and installation guides,
visit: [Smart Home HQ Security Reviews](#)**

This checklist is for informational purposes only. Consult with security professionals for specific recommendations tailored to your home and situation.