

# 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
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## 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
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## 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
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## 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
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## 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
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## **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
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## **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
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## 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](#)

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## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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### 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:  
\_\_\_\_\_

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#### 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.

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**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.*