

Home Safety Checklist

The once-a-year walk-through that keeps the people in your house safe. Print it and check things off.

Smoke and carbon monoxide

- ☐ Test every smoke alarm (one inside each bedroom, outside sleeping areas, every level)
- ☐ Test every CO alarm (each level and near sleeping areas if you have gas, a fireplace, or an attached garage)
- ☐ Replace batteries in battery-powered alarms
- ☐ Check manufacture dates: replace smoke alarms at 10 years, CO alarms at 5-10 years

Fire

- ☐ Check fire extinguishers: gauge in the green, pin in place, not expired
- ☐ Keep one extinguisher in the kitchen, garage, and each level
- ☐ Clean the dryer lint trap and inspect the vent duct
- ☐ Clear 3 feet around the furnace, water heater, and space heaters
- ☐ Have the chimney inspected before the first fire of the season

Electrical, gas, and water

- ☐ Press TEST and RESET on every GFCI outlet
- ☐ Look for warm outlets, scorch marks, or flickering lights
- ☐ Confirm everyone knows where the main water shutoff is
- ☐ Confirm everyone knows where the gas shutoff is and has a wrench nearby
- ☐ Label the electrical panel breakers

Escape and emergency

- ☐ Walk the escape plan with the household: two ways out of every room, one meeting spot
- ☐ Check that windows open and screens release from the inside
- ☐ Restock the emergency kit: water, food, flashlight, batteries, first aid, medications
- ☐ Post emergency numbers and the house address where a guest can see them
- ☐ Check stair railings, outdoor lighting, and loose rugs for trip hazards

Write it down

Alarm install dates, extinguisher expiration dates, and shutoff locations. A dated record makes next year's check a five-minute job.