

First Month To-Do Checklist

One of the best home buying tips is to walk through a house - before buying it - with a home inspector and get a “guided tour” of your home’s systems, operations and safety information.

However, if you didn’t learn from the home inspection what to check, what to replace, and what to maintain, this “First Month To-Do Checklist” can help you know where to begin after you’ve moved into your new home.

First Month To-Do Checklist	What You’ll Need
Examine the filters in your furnace or central air system and replace if needed (every three months).	Materials: Filters
Check to be sure your home has several fire extinguishers. If not, purchase additional units.	Materials: Fire Extinguishers
Check to be sure your new home has smoke detectors. If not, place detectors in the kitchen, hallway, and bedrooms.	Tools: Smoke Detector
Make sure your new home has a carbon monoxide detector.	Materials: Carbon Monoxide Detectors
Know where your electrical box is and have your inspector or the previous homeowner give you a review of the breakers. If not marked, label breakers by room.	
If your new home has an older water heater, wrap the water heater in insulation to keep energy costs low.	Materials: Water Heater Insulation
Refrigerators need cleaning on the inside and outside. Every six months, pull the refrigerator away from the walls, and clean the coils with a soft vacuum brush.	
A well-stocked first-aid kit is a must.	
Play it safe. Install new locks on all exterior doors. Make sure locks have deadbolts.	Materials: Door Locks
Make one or two extra sets of keys for family or friends.	
Check window locks and replace any that are broken or not secure.	
Add outdoor motion-detector lights to give you a safe and well-lit area.	Materials: Motion Detectors
Store outdoor items in a secure storage barn or locked garage.	Materials: Outdoor Storage
Check your doors and windows for drafts. A programmable thermostat will help you keep your home’s temperature even and comfortable - and your energy bill down as well.	Materials: Programmable Thermostat
Make sure you have several flashlights (with fresh batteries) stored in different rooms.	Tools: Flashlight
Be sure to clean gutters twice a year to insure proper water drainage. Consider installing gutter guards.	Materials: Gutters