

HOMEOWNER SAFETY CHECKLIST

For your use, we have developed this brief list of helpful suggestions that address common safety issues that you may encounter as a homeowner.

Windows

Check that all windows and doors are secure. Improve window hardware as necessary. Security rods can be added to sliding windows and doors.

Review Possible Tripping Hazards

- Undertake improvements to all stairways, decks, porches, landings, driveways and walkways where there is a risk of falling or stumbling.
- Examine interior for loose or torn carpeting and flooring. Undertake repairs where necessary.

Smoke Detectors

Install smoke detectors on each level of the home. Ensure that there is a smoke detector outside all sleeping areas. Replace batteries on any existing smoke detectors and test them. Make a note to replace them in a year.

Fire/Earthquake Evacuation Plan

Create a plan of action in the event of a fire or earthquake in your home. Ensure that there is an operable window or door in every room of the house. Provide rope or ladders on upper stories if there is no fire escape. Visit www.redcross.org for detailed information.

Appliances

Make sure that all of your appliances have Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) listings. A UL listing is an assurance that the product has been tested in accordance with nationally recognized safety standards.

Garage

Check your electric garage-door opener to make sure it is equipped with a 'safety stop' mechanism to prevent it from injuring people. Test the door periodically by closing it on a wooden chair or bench.

Fire Extinguisher

Purchase a general-purpose fire extinguisher for each floor of the home plus one small kitchen extinguisher for grease fires.

First-Aid Kit

Keep first-aid materials and a manual in an accessible location.



Household Tools

Consider filling a toolbox with the basic tools to help you with normal home maintenance chores. Include:

- Hammer
- A variety of nails
- Picture wire
- A variety of screws and nuts
- Flathead and Phillips screwdrivers
- Pliers
- Plumbers wrench
- Electric drill with drill and screwdriver bits
- Ratchet set
- Small wood saw
- Duct tape
- Flashlight
- WD 40
- Clean cotton "shop" rags
- Toilet plunger
- Tape Measure
- Caulk and caulking gun