



# TO DO LIST FOR NEW HOMEOWNERS

Moving into a new house can be a daunting task. Between unpacking, cleaning and trying to find that stray roll of toilet paper, it may feel you have lost your mind in a sea of bubble wrap. The items listed below may feel like back burner tasks but really, they help you feel like your new place is more like your new home.

## 1. Pest-proof Your New Home.

If you have access to your new place a day or so before the moving van is scheduled to arrive you could set off a bug bomb or have the exterminator come and spray. Even if you don't see any bugs, it's likely they're there, and you don't want to have to share your new digs with pests.

## 2. Turn on Utilities.

Notify the utility companies to transfer gas, water, electrical, trash and sewer into your name.

## 3. Plug in Refrigerator.

Make sure all of the appliances are plugged in and working. Many people while moving out unplug a refrigerator and turn it off.

## 4. Change the Locks

You really don't know who else has keys to your home, so change the locks. That ensures you're the only person who has access.

## 5. Inspect Your Belongings.

Once everything's off the truck, check your inventory list against what's been delivered. This is where it helps to have both the inventory list and a floorplan filled out with what goes where.

## 6. Steam Clean Carpets.

Do this before you move your furniture in, and your new home life will be off to a fresh start.

## 7. Wipe Out Your Cabinets.

Before you move in your dishes and bathroom supplies make sure to wipe inside and out and replace contact paper if necessary.

## 8. Replace the Furnace Filter.

One of the fastest ways to create problems with a forced-air heating and cooling system is to forget to replace the filter. Locate the furnace filter and buy replacements.

## 9. Check for Plumbing Leaks.

An inspector should do this for you before closing, but it never hurts to double-check. Keep an eye out for dripping faucets, running toilets, and your water heater for signs of a leak.

## 10. Check Smoke and CO Detector Dates.

It's important that you know where your smoke and CO detectors are located and that they are working. Smoke alarms may be the cheapest, easiest and most effective means for protecting your family and your home from a fire.