



My home safety checklist

for the outside of my home

Breathe easier with a safer exterior. Print this simple checklist now and check off each step as you complete it! Refer to this checklist yearly to help keep the outside of your home as safe as can be.

Driveways, Walkways and Yards

- First, take a peek at your exterior front door. If it's clearly visible and well lit at night, you're doing great! If it's blocked by overgrown shrubs, it's time to do some trimming.
- Next, survey your driveway and paths. Are they level and in good repair? If not, take action to fix cracks, buckling surfaces or holes, as they can cause tripping and falls, especially for the elderly or disabled.
- Now it's time to walk a full circle around your property to spot any hidden concerns. Look out for any holes in the lawn, patches of poison ivy, bee nests or ant hills, and take action to resolve these issues.
- If you spot any wood piles, accumulated brush, garbage bins and recyclable container collections close to your house, relocate them so they're not so close. These attract unwanted pests like termites, ants, roaches, snakes, and mice that you likely don't want inside your home.

QUICK TIP

Spring is the best time to inspect and prune overgrown shrubs.

Decks, Patios & Porches

- If you have any raised decks, patios, or porches, take a close look at the steps leading up to them. Are the steps solid? Bounce on them slightly to test, and if not, take action to remedy this issue.
- Next, walk the full length of your deck, patio or porch and be on the lookout for rotting wood, soft flooring, buckling surfaces, cracks or other hazards. If you find any, have these issue repaired as soon as possible.
- Finally, do you have a rail surrounding elevated structures like decks, patios or porches? If not, you should strongly consider installing one. If you do, pull on it to test its strength and stability. If it doesn't seem strong or stable, have this issue fixed quickly to avoid serious injury.

Garage

- As our last step in our home exterior safety checklist, let's take a look at your garage. Are your garage doors in working order, with functioning batteries? Do they lift easily? If not, resolve these issues.
- Apart from basic opening and closing, what is the quality of your garage doors? If they do not seem solid, consider replacement.
- Is there adequate lighting available in the garage? If not, consider installing additional lighting fixtures for safety.

QUICK TIP

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All done! Remember, walk through these steps yearly to help keep the outside of your home as safe as possible for your family, pets, and visitors.