

10 Things New Homeowners Should Do First

You've done the hardest part – closed on your new home. Now, it's time to make it your own.

- 1 TRANSFER YOUR UTILITIES**
At closing, determine the status of the utilities and ensure the previous owners are paid up, so you can switch the services over to your name.
- 3 UPDATE YOUR ADDRESS**
Notify the postal service, your employer, financial institutions, insurance companies, and any other appropriate contacts of your new details.
- CLEAN 5**
Before you unpack, deep clean the whole house (rugs, windows, bathrooms, kitchen, **everything**) or hire a service to do it for you.

- 2 COPY AND SAFELY STORE ALL CLOSING DOCUMENTS**
Store the originals in your safe deposit box, keep a copy on hand in a small fire-proof safe, and scan and store the documents securely online or on a protected device.
- MAKE ANY IMPROVEMENTS OR REPAIRS YOU CAN BEFORE MOVING IN 4**
Whether you do it yourself or hire professionals, it's easier to get things done before you bring your stuff in. Not sure where to start? Consult your home inspection report for anything that was recommended at the time of inspection.



- 6 CHANGE THE LOCKS ON THE EXTERIOR DOORS**
As soon as you have the keys, install new locks or have a locksmith switch them out. Also update locks for sheds, pool houses, or other structures.
- 7 UPDATE ALL THE SECURITY CODES**
Reset the codes for doors, garages, and gates. Previous owners forget to the leave instructions? Check the manual online.
- 8 CALL THE EXTERMINATOR**
Even if you don't see any pests, it's better to be safe than sorry.
- 9 FIND YOUR SHUT-OFF VALVES**
Learn where the controls for water, gas, and electricity are both locally, like in the bathroom, and for the whole house **before** there is an emergency.
- ADJUST THE WATER HEATER 10**
If you have small children, set it for 120°F or lower to reduce the chance of scalding.

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