New Homeowner Checklist

Your first year · 18 things to check

GrabTheHammer
grabthehammer.com

Tick each job as you finish it. Every job has a step-by-step guide with pictures at the address shown.

YOUR FIRST WEEK

- [ ] **Find the main water shutoff and make sure it turns**
  It's the one thing to know before anything goes wrong.
  grabthehammer.com/main-water-shutoff-valve/
- [ ] **Find the electrical panel and learn to reset a breaker**
  Label the breakers while you're there.
  grabthehammer.com/breaker-keeps-tripping/
- [ ] **Learn where the GFCI outlets are**
  One tripped GFCI can kill outlets in several rooms.
  grabthehammer.com/outlets-not-working-reset-gfci/
- [ ] **Test every smoke alarm**
  Replace any that are more than 10 years old.
  grabthehammer.com/smoke-alarm-chirping/
- [ ] **Add or test carbon monoxide alarms**
  You need them if you have gas, oil or wood heat, or an attached garage.
  grabthehammer.com/carbon-monoxide-alarm-beeping/
- [ ] **Change the HVAC filter**
  You don't know when the last owner did.
  grabthehammer.com/change-hvac-air-filter/

YOUR FIRST MONTH

- [ ] **Clean the dryer vent**
  Previous owners rarely do.
  grabthehammer.com/clean-dryer-vent/
- [ ] **Check under every sink for leaks**
  Small drips are easy to miss in a new house.
  grabthehammer.com/leak-under-sink/
- [ ] **Check caulk around tubs and showers**
  Recaulking is cheap insurance against water damage.
  grabthehammer.com/recaulk-bathtub/
- [ ] **Check that downspouts drain away**
  Watch where the water goes in the first good rain.
  grabthehammer.com/water-pooling-around-foundation/
- [ ] **Put together a basic toolkit**
  A hammer, screwdrivers, pliers and a flashlight cover most small jobs.
  grabthehammer.com/how-to-use-a-hammer/
- [ ] **Learn to find a stud**
  You'll hang a lot of things this year.
  grabthehammer.com/find-a-wall-stud/

YOUR FIRST YEAR

- [ ] **Work through each season's checklist**
  Start with the one for this season below.
  grabthehammer.com/clean-gutters/
- [ ] **Flush the water heater**
  Sediment builds up, especially if nobody has done it.
  grabthehammer.com/hot-water-runs-out-fast/
- [ ] **Clean the refrigerator coils**
  Easy to forget; the fridge runs better for it.
  grabthehammer.com/clean-refrigerator-coils/
- [ ] **Look at the roof and gutters from the ground**
  Catch small problems before they leak.
  grabthehammer.com/replace-roof-shingle/
- [ ] **Get the furnace and AC checked**
  A tune-up gives you a baseline on old equipment.
  grabthehammer.com/furnace-not-turning-on/
- [ ] **Keep a list of small fixes**
  Knock one out each weekend.
  grabthehammer.com/touch-up-wall-paint/

Done: ___ of 18 Date started: _____

© 2026 GrabTheHammer