18 TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR NEW HOME



FIRE PROTECTION

- **1.** Install smoke/carbon monoxide alarms on every level. Test monthly and replace batteries each year.
- **2.** Buy an ABC multipurpose fire extinguisher for the kitchen, where half of all fires occur. Check pressure annually.
- **3.** Plug major appliances into wall outlets, not extension cords, which can overheat.
- **4.** Create escape plans for all rooms and place escape ladders in upstairs bedrooms.



BURGLARY PROTECTION

- **5.** Change locks on exterior doors and confirm that all doors and windows lock securely.
- **6.** Add security bars to sliding glass doors.
- **7.** Trim shrubs near home to reduce spots where burglars might hide.
- **8.** Install motion-detector lighting to illuminate dark areas.
- **9.** Consider adding a home alarm system.



FLOOD PROTECTION

- **10.** Place wireless water alarms under washing machine and sinks.
- **11.** Install flood-safe hoses on washing machine.
- **12.** When leaving on trips, turn off water at main valve to prevent floods.
- **13.** Confirm that homeowners' insurance covers water and mold damage due to leaks and sewer backups. Some policies don't.





WEAR-AND-TEAR PROTECTION

- **17.** Inspect inside and outside of home monthly for signs of damage.
- **18.** Repair/replace broken items before small problems become serious ones.



STORM PROTECTION

- **14.** Trim trees and shrubs so weakened branches won't fall on home or be propelled into windows by high winds.
- **15.** Install downspout extensions to carry heavy rains away from the foundation.
- **16.** If you evacuate when a dangerous storm hits, turn off utilities to deter flooding and fires. (ready.gov/utility-shut-safety)

