

CHECKLIST

HOME FORTRESS SECURITY AUDIT



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This checklist will help you systematically evaluate and strengthen your home's security against various threats. By identifying and addressing vulnerabilities across multiple layers, you'll transform your residence into a resilient fortress that protects your family during both everyday disruptions and emergency situations.

Checklist

1. Structural Assessment

Inspect roof integrity

Examine your roof for loose shingles, damaged flashing, or sagging sections, especially after storms. Structural roof issues can lead to water damage and compromise your home's protective envelope.

Secure heavy furniture to walls

Install inexpensive anchoring straps on bookcases, tall cabinets, and other heavy furniture to prevent them from toppling during earthquakes or severe weather events.

Check for "widow-makers"

Identify and remove dead branches or unstable elements around your property that could fall during storms and cause injury or damage to your home.

Evaluate site drainage patterns

Observe how water flows around your property during rainfall and identify potential flooding risks. Poor drainage can lead to foundation damage and basement flooding.

2. Perimeter Security

Install motion-activated lighting

Set up lights with at least 700 lumens at key entry points around your property. Well-lit areas significantly deter potential intruders and increase visibility of threats.

Implement strategic "hostile landscaping"

Plant thorny bushes like barberry or roses under windows to create both psychological and physical barriers against unwanted access.

Identify line-of-sight vulnerabilities

Walk your property boundary and note areas where visibility is blocked, creating potential hiding spots. Clear or modify these areas to improve visibility.

Test outdoor communication capabilities

Verify that your communication devices work from all areas of your property to ensure you can call for help if needed from any location.

3. Entry Point Reinforcement

Upgrade to Grade 1 deadbolts

Replace standard locks with those offering at least a 1-inch "throw" (extension) to increase resistance against forced entry.

- Reinforce door frames with 3-inch screws**
Replace the short screws in strike plates with 3-inch screws that penetrate the structural framing, dramatically increasing door security.
- Install security hinge pins**
For doors with exposed hinges, add security pins to prevent door removal even if the hinges are compromised.
- Apply window security film**
Install film that holds shattered glass together, delaying entry by 30-90 seconds and giving you critical time to implement your family safety plan.
- Secure sliding doors with secondary locks**
Add auxiliary locks or simple security bars to prevent sliding doors from being forced open or lifted off their tracks.

4. Interior Defense Layers

- Designate a safe room**
Select a centrally located room away from exterior walls and windows with minimal glass exposure to serve as a shelter during severe weather or security threats.
- Create a family responsibility chart**
Assign specific preparedness tasks to each household member with primary and backup responsibilities to ensure critical security functions are maintained.

- ❑ **Develop and document emergency codes**
Establish simple status codes (green/yellow/red) for family check-ins during disruptions that communicate essential information quickly under stress.
- ❑ **Establish rally points**
Identify three levels of meeting locations where family members can reunite if separated: in-home, neighborhood, and out-of-area points.

5. Systems Redundancy

- ❑ **Test backup power options**
Verify functionality of generators, power stations, or solar systems by running them under load for 15 minutes monthly to ensure they'll work when needed.
- ❑ **Implement a multi-barrier water purification strategy**
Set up filtration, chemical treatment, and boiling capabilities as layered approaches to ensure safe water during disruptions.
- ❑ **Create a PACE communication plan**
Document Primary, Alternate, Contingency, and Emergency communication methods for your household to maintain contact during various levels of infrastructure failure.