

**Common Cents New Homeowner Recommendations**  
***NO later than 10 days after occupancy***

# Maintenance Advice Upon Taking Ownership

After taking possession of a new home, there are some maintenance and safety issues that should be addressed immediately.

The following checklist should help you undertake these improvements:

- Change the locks on all exterior entrances, for improved security.
- Check that all windows and doors are secure. Improve window hardware as necessary. Security rods can be added to sliding windows and doors. Consideration could also be given to a security system.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of the home. Ensure that there is a smoke detector outside all sleeping areas.

Replace batteries on any existing smoke detectors and test them. Make a note to replace batteries again in one year.

- Create a plan of action in the event of a fire in your home. Ensure that there is an operable window or door in every room of the house. Consult with your local fire department regarding fire safety issues and what to do in the event of fire.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors near all furnaces, water heaters, gas ovens, and any other gas appliances to warn occupants of possible carbon monoxide emissions.
- Examine driveways and walkways for trip hazards. Undertake repairs where necessary.
- Examine the interior of the home for trip hazards. Loose or torn carpeting and flooring should be repaired.
- Undertake improvements to all stairways, decks, porches and landings where there is a risk of falling or stumbling.
- Label all furnace shut-off switches (switch closest to the furnace) to prevent someone from shutting off the furnace by accident. Label all plumbing shut-off valves for proper identification (consult with seller concerning exact locations).
- Install rain caps and vermin screens on all chimney flues, as necessary.
- Check all dryer flue vents for lint build-up in the line, which can cause damage and possible fires at the dryer element.

Flexible piping should be replaced with rigid smooth wall piping, which is less prone to blockages.

□ Investigate the location of the main shut-offs for the plumbing, heating and electrical systems. If you attended the home inspection, these items would have been pointed out to you. If you are leaving the home for extended periods of time (i.e. during vacations), it is recommended that the water to the house be shut off to prevent damage to interior finishes from possible plumbing leaks.

We at Common Cents Inc, Home Inspection take pride in our company name.  
Common Cents