

As a homeowner, it's crucial to take the time to routinely address potential safety risks on your property. After all, even seemingly minor household issues—such as stray cords, dust buildup or leaky faucets—can spiral into significant problems if left unnoticed.

By conducting an annual home safety audit, you can help keep your property safe and secure—reducing the risk of household injuries, property damage and costly insurance claims. Let's get started...

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS CONSIDERATIONS: COMPLETED



Ensure that smoke alarms are properly installed inside and outside of each bedroom, as well as on every level of you home—including the basement. Test all alarms for effectiveness once every month and replace batteries once every year. Replace alarms every 10 years.



Ensure that carbon monoxide (CO) detectors are properly installed outside of each bedroom and on every level of your home—including the basement. Test all detectors for effectiveness and replace batteries as needed. CO detectors should be replaced every seven years.



Establish a fire emergency escape plan that outlines several safe escape routes from different levels and rooms within your home. Be sure to practice this plan with your household. If you already have a plan in place, make sure to review it.



Consider installing a fire escape ladder near a window for each upstairs room in your home. Ensure all members of your household know how to safely use a fire escape ladder.



Place portable fire extinguishers in areas of your home with an elevated fire risk, such as the kitchen and the garage. Make sure that all members of your household know how to safely use an extinguisher. Inspect extinguishers to ensure that the pressure gauge is in the green zone, the pin and tamper seal are intact and there are no other external damages (e.g., dents, rust or leaks). Replace extinguishers as needed.



Ensure proper locks on all windows and doors to help deter home burglars. Install a sturdy deadbolt on each exterior door. Consider implementing additional home security measures, such as motion-activated exterior lighting and security cameras.



Make sure that your house number is clearly displayed and visible from the outside. This will allow your home to be easily identified in case of an emergency.



Create a home emergency kit to be prepared for any scenario. This kit should include emergency documents (e.g., insurance policies, bank account numbers and passports), food and water, a first-aid kit, essential medications, personal hygiene items, a change of clothes, a battery-powered radio and flashlight (as well as spare batteries), matches, electronic device chargers, sleeping bags and pliers to turn off utilities. Store this kit in a safe, secure location.