



Sunday Column

By Grant Lopez, 2019 Chairman

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New Home? Make Sure You Do These Things ASAP

Moving into a new home is an exciting time! Make sure that you cover these basics before settling into your new place.

1. **Secure the Locks**

First things first, make sure you change the locks on your new home. You never know who the previous owner handed out keys to, so make sure to take the necessary step of changing the deadbolts. Homeowners can change out the locks themselves, or call in a professional locksmith.

2. **Get Familiar with your Breaker Box and Water Controls**

You never know when a breaker might flip, or you may have a plumbing issue. Familiarize yourself with what each breaker is associated with, this can easily be done with two people- one flipping a breaker and the other finding out what it correlates to. Knowing where your main water valve is also essential, you never know when you'll need to cut off water supply in the event of a plumbing emergency.

3. **Deep Clean**

Nobody wants to live in someone else's mess. Take the time during move-in to clean out the cabinets. Wipe them down, maybe add new contact paper if necessary. Invest in steam cleaning the carpets. Taking these small cleaning steps will make your new home feel and look clean and give you peace of mind.

4. **Think about Pest Control**

Whether you decide to DIY your pest control, or hire a professional, make sure this is a step you take during your move-in process. Pest control can guard your house against mice, bats, termites, roaches, and many other creepy crawlers.

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