

HOME SECURITY INNOVATIONS

Printable Home Security Planning Pack

Four practical resources in one pack: a whole-home audit, moving-home checklist, burglary-response sheet and monitoring-company comparison worksheet.

01	Audit your layers Review perimeter, entry, detection, delay, alerts and response.
02	Move securely Reset access, accounts, devices and emergency contacts.
03	Respond safely Use a clear first-hour and first-day sequence after a burglary.
04	Compare monitoring Record evidence, full costs, contracts and response arrangements.

How to use it

Work from the outside of the property inward. Record facts, not assumptions. A device is only one layer: also test what happens during power, broadband, mobile-network and keyholder failures. Recheck provider claims before signing a contract.

Safety note: This pack supports planning. It does not replace emergency services, professional risk assessment, local law, insurer requirements or manufacturer instructions.

1. Whole-home security audit

Score each area: 0 = absent or unknown, 1 = partly addressed, 2 = tested and documented. Prioritise easy entry, silent failures and weak response arrangements.

Boundary and approach	Check / notes
☐ House number is visible to responders without exposing unnecessary details.	
☐ Lighting covers approaches without dazzling cameras or neighbours.	
☐ Side paths, gates and low roofs do not create an easy hidden route.	
☐ Bins, tools and ladders are secured away from vulnerable openings.	
☐ Sheds, garages, bicycles and vehicle keys have their own protection layer.	

Doors, windows and access	Check / notes
☐ External doors, frames, hinges, cylinders and strike plates are sound.	
☐ Every frequently opened ground-floor window closes and locks correctly.	
☐ Spare keys and smart-lock recovery methods are controlled and documented.	
☐ Guest, cleaner and tradesperson access is time-limited and reviewed.	
☐ Mail slots, glazing and nearby windows do not expose locks or keys.	

Detection and evidence	Check / notes
☐ Opening sensors cover priority doors and accessible windows.	
☐ Motion detection is positioned to avoid pets, heaters and direct sunlight.	
☐ Camera views capture useful detail while respecting privacy boundaries.	
☐ Night images have been tested for glare, reflection and missed faces.	
☐ Recording retention and storage capacity match the intended purpose.	

1. Whole-home security audit - alerts and resilience

A security system is only effective when alerts are noticed, understood and acted upon safely.

Accounts and privacy	Check / notes
☐ Unique passwords and multi-factor authentication are enabled where available.	
☐ Former users, installers and shared accounts no longer have access.	
☐ Firmware, apps, recorders, routers and phones receive security updates.	
☐ Indoor camera locations respect bedrooms, bathrooms and household consent.	
☐ Cloud footage sharing, retention and deletion settings are understood.	

Power and communications	Check / notes
☐ Alarm, router, recorder and critical cameras have suitable backup power.	
☐ The system response during broadband and mobile-network failure is tested.	
☐ Low-battery, offline-device and storage-full alerts are enabled and noticed.	
☐ Mechanical entry and safe exit remain possible during smart-device failure.	
☐ A maintenance schedule covers batteries, sensors, cameras and contact lists.	

Response chain	Check / notes
☐ Primary and backup alert recipients understand what each alert means.	
☐ Keyholders can attend safely and have current access instructions.	
☐ Monitoring verification and escalation steps are recorded in plain language.	
☐ Emergency-service expectations are realistic and country-appropriate.	
☐ Household members know duress words, safe rooms and when not to confront.	

Audit score	Boundary ____ /10	Access ____ /10	Detection ____ /10	Digital ____ /10	Resilience ____ /10	Response ____ /10
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2. Moving-home security checklist

Complete the urgent access changes first. Do not assume a previous occupier, contractor, letting agent or installer has been removed from connected accounts.

When	Action	Done / notes
Before move-in	☐ Confirm who holds physical keys, fobs, gate controls and alarm codes.	
Before move-in	☐ Ask for system manuals, installer details, contracts and ownership status.	
First 24 hours	☐ Change or rekey external-door locks where appropriate.	
First 24 hours	☐ Reset alarm, smart-lock, camera, doorbell, router and recorder credentials.	
First 24 hours	☐ Remove previous users, shared links, routines, voice assistants and integrations.	
First 24 hours	☐ Test smoke, heat and carbon-monoxide alarms and replace uncertain batteries.	
First week	☐ Map entrances, accessible windows, side access, outbuildings and blind spots.	
First week	☐ Confirm camera angles and audio recording comply with local privacy rules.	
First week	☐ Update keyholders, monitoring contacts, emergency numbers and insurer details.	
First week	☐ Test alerts, sirens, app notifications, backup power and connectivity failure.	
First month	☐ Review parcels, vehicle keys, bicycles, tools, ladders and garden access.	
First month	☐ Record serial numbers and photograph valuables; store the record securely.	
First month	☐ Create a recurring maintenance and access-review schedule.	

Do not record passwords, alarm codes or recovery keys on this printable sheet.

3. After a burglary: first hour and first day

If the incident may still be in progress, move to safety and contact the appropriate emergency service. Do not enter or confront anyone.

FIRST HOUR	☐ Move to a safe location; check household members without entering an unsafe property.
	☐ Contact police or emergency services using the appropriate local number.
	☐ Avoid touching, cleaning or moving possible evidence.
	☐ Record what you observed, when you arrived and who entered afterward.
	☐ Secure urgent hazards only when police say it is appropriate.

First day	Check / notes
☐ Obtain the incident or crime reference and confirm evidence-submission instructions.	
☐ Contact the insurer before permanent repairs unless immediate safety requires action.	
☐ Photograph damage and missing-item areas without disturbing remaining evidence.	
☐ Preserve original camera files; export copies without overwriting the recorder.	
☐ Cancel compromised cards, keys, passes and identity documents as appropriate.	
☐ Change exposed locks, codes, passwords and access permissions after evidence needs are addressed.	
☐ Tell monitoring providers and trusted neighbours only what they need to know.	
☐ Arrange safe temporary boarding, glazing or door repairs and retain receipts.	
☐ Update the inventory with serial numbers, ownership evidence and replacement estimates.	
☐ Review the entry route and failure chain before buying replacement equipment.	

Incident reference	
Insurer claim reference	
Urgent repair contact	
Evidence copies stored at	

4. Monitoring-company comparison worksheet

Compare evidence and full contract terms rather than relying on a headline monthly price. Use one column per proposal.

Comparison point	Provider A	Provider B	Provider C
Provider / proposal date			
Service area confirmed			
Monitoring type and location			
Accreditation or licence source			
Alarm verification method			
Keyholder escalation			
Guard / responder option			
Police or emergency-service pathway			
Power backup			
Broadband / mobile failure path			
Equipment ownership			
Installation cost			
Monthly fee			
Minimum term			
Cancellation / moving-home terms			
Maintenance included			
App / cloud-storage costs			
Three-year estimated total			
Claim last verified			
Questions or exclusions			

Decision rule: Record "unknown" when a claim cannot be verified. Ask the provider to put important response, ownership and cancellation terms in writing before signing.