

# October Home Safety and Maintenance Checklist

## Kitchen

- Discard crumbs** in toaster tray
- Deep clean** coffee maker
- Scrub out** microwave
- Wipe down** countertop appliances
- Look through medicine cabinet** for old prescriptions or expired OTC drugs
  - Bring them to a **Drug Take Back event** (often the last Saturday in October)

## Living spaces

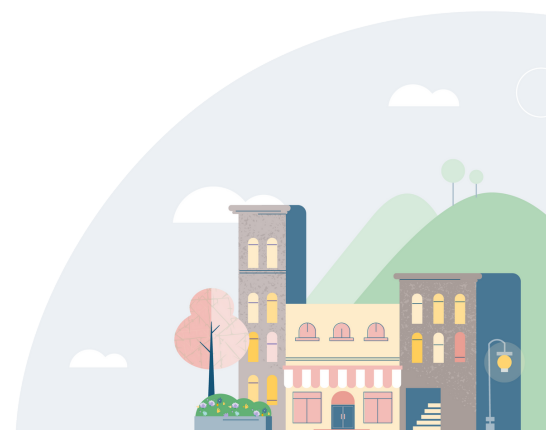
- Dust** ceiling fans
- Switch** ceiling fans to clockwise rotation
- Organize** junk drawers and cupboards
- Swap screen insert** for glass insert on exterior doors
- Replace some of your light bulbs** with [smart models](#) and set them on a random schedule to deter burglars
- Add door jammers** to every exterior door
- Improve indoor air quality:**
  - Consider buying an [air purifier](#) and [air quality monitor](#)
  - Replace or [clean filters on air purifier](#), dehumidifier, and vacuum
  - Learn about [VOCs](#) and swap VOC-heavy products for air-friendly alternatives

## Emergency preparedness

- Test smoke and CO alarms**
- Test security system equipment**
- Test medical alert system**
- Test SOS button on [kids' smartwatches](#)**
- Prepare for a [house fire](#):**
  - Check fire extinguisher pressure gauges
  - Develop an escape plan with at least two ways out
  - Add [fire escape ladders](#) to higher floors
- Begin winter weather prep:**
  - Start researching [generators](#)
  - Check water pipe insulation
  - Make sure snow shovels are in good condition
  - Sign up for a snow plow or shoveling service if needed



**Door jammers are mainly for** preventing burglaries, but some models also make great babyproofing tools.



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## Halloween

- Clear walkways and stairs** of tripping hazards
- Secure railings**
- Use battery-powered candles** to prevent fires
- Offer non-candy alternatives** for kids with food allergies
- Add lights** along dim walkways
- Contain your pets**
- Prepare your kids** for safe trick-or-treating:
  - Put reflective tape on their costume
  - Prioritize safe footwear and well-fitting costumes to prevent falls
  - Give them glowstick necklaces
  - Give your child a [GPS tracker](#) or a [Bluetooth tracker](#)—even if you plan to supervise



### More Halloween safety tips:

- [Kid-Friendly Pumpkin Carving](#)
- [Common Halloween Accidents](#)

## Bathrooms

- Flush toilets** in little-used bathrooms
- Clean** bathroom vents, baseboards, and walls

## Basement or utility room

- Change furnace filter**
- Schedule** a furnace inspection and tune-up
- Round up hazardous waste** and drop it off at an appropriate facility

## Outdoors

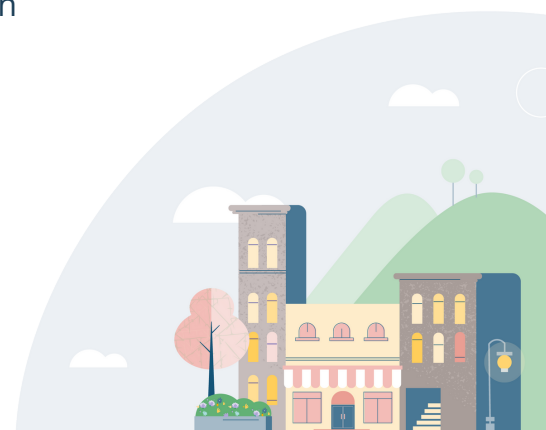
- Apply fertilizer** to lawn
- Deadhead or prune** spent flowers

## Fireplace and chimney

- Call a professional** to clean and inspect chimney
- Inspect** fireplace tools and screen for damage
- Move items** at least 3 feet away from the fireplace when it's in use

## Technology

- Clean** security camera lenses
- Change passwords:**
  - Wi-Fi
  - Bank account
  - Email
  - Security system
  - Social accounts
  - Amazon



# About Safewise.com

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## What is our mission?

Our mission is to inspire people to embrace safety as a lifestyle, turn their homes into sanctuaries, and invest in their communities.

## Who is Safewise?

SafeWise is an online resource that provides tools and information to help people make their life safer at home and in their community. SafeWise experts have decades of experience as journalists, product testers, safety and compliance officers, homeowners, and community advocates.

## What do we do?

We believe that our homes—and the people (and pets) we share them with—are what really matter. Protecting the “where” and “who” in our lives gives us more time to enjoy it all. We contextualize national crime and safety trends to show how they affect you and your neighborhood. We use this knowledge to examine safety and security products and find out whether they’re worth your time. When we find flaws, gaps in coverage, or a practice that makes us raise our eyebrows, we let brands and consumers know.

## How do we do it?

We do more than conduct research—we test home security systems and smart devices in-house to report on the good, the bad, and the ugly. SafeWise streamlines it for you by putting reviews, videos, & articles in one place.

## Safewise Expertise

**Real Experience:** Our expert team has 65+ years of combined safety experience and has spent thousands of hours testing hundreds of safety products and services.

**Respected Authority:** Safewise experts are actively sought by publications, broadcast journalists, non-profit organizations, community groups, podcasts, and more.

**Prominently Featured:** Our expert tips, recommendations, and proprietary safety studies have been featured by: Good Morning America, USA Today, NPR Marketplace, The Washington Post, MSNBC, Real Simple, The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon, Reader's Digest, and more.

## Let's connect!

We're everywhere you want to be online. Catch our informative [YouTube videos](#), chat with us in our [Ask SafeWise Facebook group](#), and laugh and learn with our [TikTok channel](#).

## Follow us on social:

