

Secure access first, then mount sensors while rooms are empty. Hang this on the fridge during week one so lock changes, life safety, and DIY setup do not wait until furniture blocks the walls.

DAY 1**Locks + alarms****EMPTY ROOMS****Sensors + camera****WEEK END****Routines****First-week security checklist**

Control who has keys before you worry about cameras.

- ☐ Day 1: rekey or replace exterior locks; reset garage keypad codes
- ☐ Day 1: confirm windows and sliding doors latch; store spare keys inside, not under a mat
- ☐ Day 1: test smoke and CO alarms; replace batteries if you are unsure of their age
- ☐ Day 1: locate the main water shutoff and electrical panel
- ☐ Before furniture: mount contact sensors on every exterior door and accessible ground-floor window
- ☐ Before furniture: add one motion sensor covering the main hallway or stair landing
- ☐ Before furniture: install a video doorbell or front camera while ladder access is easy
- ☐ Before furniture: confirm night vision and motion zones before porch furniture arrives
- ☐ During unpacking: photograph high-value items and serial numbers
- ☐ During unpacking: document short or tampered boxes before discarding packing
- ☐ End of week: set arm/disarm schedules and app notifications for every adult
- ☐ End of week: add outdoor motion lighting on dark sides of the home

DIY install while rooms are empty

Place sensors before sofas and dressers block door and window frames.

- ☐ Walk the empty home and list every exterior door, ground-floor window, and slider
- ☐ Mark which openings furniture will block later
- ☐ Install the hub near the router with ethernet or strong Wi-Fi, or choose cellular backup
- ☐ Place contact sensors on daily doors first: front, garage entry, and back door
- ☐ Use adhesive mounts on rentals; screw mounts where allowed
- ☐ Mount motion sensors in corners facing entry paths, not toward sunny windows
- ☐ Install the video doorbell last while you still have a clear ladder path
- ☐ Test arm and disarm with every adult before move-in traffic begins
- ☐ Label sensor locations in the app (basement slider, not sensor 7)

What to buy (no-subscription kits)

Own the equipment. Treat cloud recording as optional.

Starter kit (~\$200)

- ☐ Hub or base station
- ☐ Three to five contact sensors
- ☐ One motion sensor
- ☐ Keypad or key fob

Mid-range (\$400-\$800)

- ☐ Enough contact sensors for a three-bedroom floor plan
- ☐ Indoor camera
- ☐ Video doorbell
- ☐ Glass-break or leak sensor if it fits the home

Avoid these

- ☐ Kits that look cheap but require paid cloud to function
- ☐ Equipment you lease instead of own
- ☐ Contracts longer than a year unless you have verified the terms

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Notes
