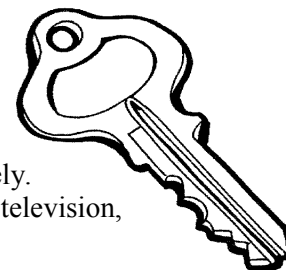


Nine Crucial Things Home Buyers Should Do Immediately After Their Purchase

1. **Change Your Locks:** This is a very important first step. Real estate agents, contractors, appraisers, inspectors and a large number of other people may have had keys to your home. For your personal security and that of your belongings, change the locks immediately.
2. **Secure the House:** Check all of the windows and doors to be certain they are locked securely. Also be certain any gates are latched and locked.
3. **Have All Utilities Changed Over:** If the utilities are still on at the time of closing, they are likely in the Seller's name. Have these changed over to your name immediately. Utilities might include water, sewer, electricity, natural gas, cable television, satellite television, telephone services and sanitation services.



If the house uses tanked propane or LP gas, don't forget to contact the fuel provider. If the electricity is off, be sure and turn off the main breaker in the house until the power is turned back on.

4. **Change the Alarm Code:** If the house is equipped with an alarm system, change the alarm code and contact the monitoring service to have the account put in your name.
5. **Notify the Police Department:** The police in small towns often know everyone. Let the police department know you have just purchased the house and when you plan on moving in.
6. **Notify the Post Office:** If you plan on moving in right away, notify the post office of your new address. This can be accomplished on-line at <http://www.usps.com>.
7. **Introduce Yourself to Your New Neighbors:** Your neighbors can help keep an eye on the place while you are preparing to move in. They might also come over and offer some assistance. Be sure to give your new neighbors a way to contact you in the event of an emergency. It may also be advisable to give them the name and contact information of a close friend or relative not living with you.
8. **Put Your Closing Papers in a Safe Place:** Your closing papers contain important information. Do not risk losing them in the moving process.
9. **Relax a Little:** You will have years to enjoy your new home. Take a few minutes and walk around. Imagine the possibilities and dream of the good times to come.

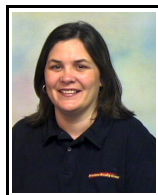
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