

10/4 Home Verification Checklist

Ten checks. Four essential systems. Every October 4.

Use this annual review to check the systems your home depends on, record what you find and plan any follow-up work. Follow device instructions and use qualified professionals for work beyond a safe homeowner check.

Completed by

Check date

Home / address

Choose one result per check. Checked: all applicable steps complete, no issue found. Needs attention: a problem found. Not checked: a step remains unverified. N/A: optional equipment is absent. **Missing required alarms or protection: choose Needs attention.**

W / WATER

01 Visible leaks and water heater

Look under sinks, around toilets and near accessible appliance hoses for moisture, corrosion or old water stains. Look around the water heater for leaks or rust. Record its age and last service if known. Leave covers and safety valves alone.

RESULT	Checked	Needs attention	Not checked	N/A
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02 Water shutoffs and leak sensors

Locate and label your home's main shutoff. Keep access clear. Confirm operation only as instructed by a plumber or device manual; never force a stiff, leaking or corroded valve. Test installed leak sensors and automatic shutoffs using their approved procedure. Confirm both the response and any expected alert. Ask a plumber if you are unsure.

RESULT	Checked	Needs attention	Not checked	N/A
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03 Sump pump and drainage

From a safe, accessible area, check for standing water, visible blockages and an obstructed sump discharge. If installed, test the sump pump and backup using the manufacturer's method or have it serviced. Never reach into a powered sump pit or run the pump dry.

RESULT	Checked	Needs attention	Not checked	N/A
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E / ELECTRICAL

04 Outlets, cords and safety devices

With all covers in place, look for damaged cords, exposed wiring, scorch marks or missing circuit labels. Check outdoor outlet covers and avoid overloaded or linked power strips. Use GFCI and AFCI TEST/RESET controls according to their instructions; plan for affected devices to lose power. Have an electrician address failed tests, recurring trips, burning smells or damage.

RESULT	Checked	Needs attention	Not checked	N/A
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05 Surge protection and battery backup

Check surge-protection status indicators against the device manual. A power light alone may not confirm surge protection. Use the approved battery-backup/UPS self-test. Record battery warnings, age and supported devices. Ask your provider about expected runtime and outage limits; a passed self-test does not guarantee internet or alerts.

RESULT	Checked	Needs attention	Not checked	N/A
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Safety, security and temperature

Before testing monitored alarms, arrange test mode with your provider. Restore normal monitoring and confirm the result when finished.

Choose one result per check. Record any concerns and follow-up on page 3.

S / SAFETY AND SECURITY

06 Smoke and carbon monoxide alarms

Check smoke alarms inside and outside sleeping areas and on every level; check CO alarms outside sleeping areas and on every level. Follow placement instructions and local requirements. Use each alarm's test button. Replace smoke alarms 10 years after manufacture, or sooner if required. Replace CO alarms according to their label, manual or end-of-life signal. Record due dates.

RESULT	Checked	Needs attention	Not checked	N/A
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07 Locks, security sensors and cameras

Check door and window locks, smart-lock batteries and installed security sensors. Follow your provider's procedure when testing monitored equipment. Clean accessible camera lenses and review the view. Play back a recent saved clip, check its time and confirm the recording plan or storage is working. Live view alone does not verify recording.

RESULT	Checked	Needs attention	Not checked	N/A
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08 Alerts, contacts and connections

Check that supported monitoring devices show online. Use approved test alerts and confirm receipt on the intended phones; review notification permissions and emergency contacts. If monitored, confirm the service is active, ask the provider to confirm test results and restore normal monitoring. Test supported remote access over cellular and record internet or power-outage limitations.

RESULT	Checked	Needs attention	Not checked	N/A
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T / TEMPERATURE

09 Heating, cooling and thermostat controls

Check accessible filters, open vents and visible condensate drainage. Note leaks, unusual sounds, short cycling or rooms that do not reach the set temperature. Review thermostat schedules and normal system response. Run heating or cooling only within the equipment's permitted outdoor conditions. Record last service and arrange HVAC service as needed.

RESULT	Checked	Needs attention	Not checked	N/A
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10 Temperature sensors and freeze planning

Identify vulnerable pipes and cold areas. Compare sensor readings with a reliable thermometer at the same location, and confirm remote temperature readings where supported. Set low-temperature alerts for the home and device with your provider. Use an approved alert test and confirm delivery; restore normal settings. An alert threshold is different from the thermostat setting.

RESULT	Checked	Needs attention	Not checked	N/A
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Keep regular testing on your calendar: test smoke and CO alarms monthly, and GFCI/AFCI devices according to their instructions, commonly monthly. Follow all manufacturer service and replacement schedules.

In cold weather, the American Red Cross advises leaving heat set no lower than 55°F when away. Your home may need a higher setting. Temperature alerts do not replace heat or pipe protection.

Keep a dated record

Record useful details below. Use another sheet for more issues and keep photos or service reports with this checklist.

Main water shutoff location

Water heater age + last service

HVAC model / age + last service

Filter type + next replacement

Smoke / CO replacement dates + locations

Backup battery age + supported devices

Sensor locations + low-temperature alert settings

Monitoring provider + contact number

ACTION PLAN

Check #	Issue / next step	Person responsible	Target / done date

SAVE WITH THIS CHECKLIST

- ☐ Dated checklist and notes
- ☐ Photos of accessible equipment, labels and issues
- ☐ Test confirmations and service reports
- ☐ Open issues, responsible people and follow-up dates

Keep your records private. Leave passwords, alarm codes and sensitive camera views out of photos.

Additional notes / location of attached records

REVIEW STATUS Choose the status that best describes this review.

- Review complete - no open items recorded
- Follow-up needed - issues or untested items remain
- Professional visit scheduled

Next follow-up / visit date

This checklist records the items checked on the date shown. It is not a professional inspection, safety certification or guarantee of future performance.

Guidance: USFA smoke alarms | USFA CO alarms | Kidde | CPSC | Red Cross. Follow your device manuals.