A Home Security Check Using What You Already Have

Start at the door you use when you come home. Check the items that apply to your household, then choose one thing to put right or ask someone to repair.

At the door

- ☐ Close the door the way you usually do and gently check that it latched. Repeat at the patio and garage entry. Tell the owner or property manager about any latch that misses.
- ☐ Bring any hidden spare key indoors. If you need a backup, arrange to leave it with someone you trust.
- ☐ Check that the entry light works from the switch you normally use. Note a failed light for repair and keep your route to the door clear.

Around the home

- ☐ Check reachable window latches after airing out a room. Make sure everyone can still use the doors and windows in your escape plan.
- ☐ Put outdoor tools away and secure ladders if you have suitable storage. Watch the garage door finish closing before leaving it unattended.
- ☐ Photograph the serial number on one valuable item and save it somewhere you could access if that item went missing.

With the people you live with

- ☐ Agree who checks the doors at bedtime. If someone unexpected knocks, you can speak through the locked door and verify a service visit using the company’s published number.
- ☐ Choose one unfinished item to follow up. Write the problem, who can help and a date to check progress.

Use only normal handles and latches. Do not strike glass, force locks or dismantle a window to check it.

What I will follow up

You do not need to fix everything yourself. Note repairs for the owner, property manager or a qualified trade where appropriate.

Issue I noticed	Who can help	Follow-up date
Door or window		
Light or access route		
Other item		

This is a household checklist, not a test of forced-entry resistance or a substitute for a repair assessment.

One thing I can do safely today

One repair or question to pass on

Sources and further reading

Toronto Police Service: Break and enter prevention

Toronto Fire Services: Home fire escape planning

RCMP: Home security tips