



FREE FAMILY PRINTABLE

THE SCHOOL-YEAR HOME CHECKLIST

EVERY FAMILY NEEDS

Back-to-school season means new schedules, busy mornings, homework, after-school activities and a lot more coming and going. A few simple updates around your home can make the transition easier, safer and less stressful for everyone.

Use this practical checklist to get your home ready for a successful school year!

1 ORGANIZE YOUR ENTRYWAY

The entryway often becomes the drop zone for backpacks, shoes, jackets and sports equipment. Creating a designated place for everything can make school mornings much smoother.

- ☐ Add hooks for backpacks and jackets
- ☐ Give each child a basket or cubby
- ☐ Create a designated spot for shoes
- ☐ Keep umbrellas and raincoats nearby
- ☐ Add a small tray for keys and important items
- ☐ Place a family calendar where everyone can see it

Helpful tip: Labeling each child's space can prevent belongings from becoming mixed together - and may even reduce those last-minute "Where is my backpack?" emergencies!





2

CREATE A COMFORTABLE HOMEWORK SPACE

Children don't necessarily need a separate office to have a productive homework area. A quiet corner, small desk or section of the kitchen table can work beautifully when it is organized and free from distractions.

- ☐ Choose a well-lit location
- ☐ Provide a comfortable chair
- ☐ Keep pencils, paper and basic supplies nearby
- ☐ Add a charging station for school devices
- ☐ Remove unnecessary distractions
- ☐ Use bins or folders for each subject
- ☐ Display a weekly homework and activity schedule

Good lighting is especially important. If natural light is limited, add a desk lamp that provides enough light without creating glare on a computer screen.

3

COMPLETE A HOME SAFETY CHECK

The beginning of the school year is a perfect time to review basic home safety - especially if children will be arriving home before their parents.

- ☐ Test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors
- ☐ Replace batteries when needed
- ☐ Check that exterior doors and windows lock properly
- ☐ Secure medications and household chemicals
- ☐ Make sure outdoor walkways are well-lit
- ☐ Review the family fire-escape plan
- ☐ Confirm that children know how to lock and unlock the doors
- ☐ Check that your house number is visible from the street

Teach children when to call 911 and make sure they know their full address. It is also helpful to establish clear rules about answering the door, using appliances and inviting friends inside.





4 REPLACE HVAC FILTERS

After working hard throughout the summer, your heating and cooling system deserves a little attention.

- ☐ Check and replace the HVAC filter
- ☐ Remove dust from vents and returns
- ☐ Make sure vents are not blocked by furniture
- ☐ Check the thermostat settings
- ☐ Schedule seasonal maintenance if necessary
- ☐ Replace filters in portable air purifiers

A clean filter can help your system operate efficiently and improve the air quality inside your home. Write the replacement date directly on the filter or set a reminder on your phone so it doesn't get forgotten.

5 UPDATE EMERGENCY CONTACTS

Even if your contact information has not changed, review it with every member of the family.

- ☐ Parents' or guardians' phone numbers
- ☐ A trusted neighbor or nearby relative
- ☐ Pediatrician or family doctor
- ☐ School office and nurse
- ☐ Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222
- ☐ Utility emergency numbers
- ☐ Home address and important medical information

Print the list and place it somewhere visible, such as the refrigerator or family command center. Younger children should also have a copy inside their backpacks.





6

PREPARE THE KITCHEN FOR BUSY DAYS

A little organization can make breakfasts, packed lunches and after-school snacks much easier.

- ☐ Create an easy-to-reach snack station
- ☐ Organize lunch containers and reusable bottles
- ☐ Clear space for lunch-box preparation
- ☐ Plan several quick breakfasts
- ☐ Keep a grocery list where everyone can add items
- ☐ Prepare or portion snacks ahead of time
- ☐ Check expiration dates in the pantry and refrigerator

Consider giving each child a designated section of the pantry or refrigerator with parent-approved snacks they can grab independently.

7

RESET THE FAMILY ROUTINE

A well-organized home is helpful, but a predictable routine can make an even bigger difference.

- ☐ Choose outfits the night before
- ☐ Pack backpacks before bedtime
- ☐ Charge school devices overnight
- ☐ Establish regular homework hours
- ☐ Set age-appropriate household responsibilities
- ☐ Create a bedtime routine
- ☐ Review the next day's schedule each evening





A HOME THAT WORKS FOR YOUR FAMILY

As your family settles into the school year, you may begin noticing how well - or how poorly - your home supports your daily routine. Perhaps you need a dedicated office, another bedroom, more storage, a larger kitchen or a neighborhood closer to school and activities.

Your home should make family life easier, not more complicated.

If your family's needs have changed, I would be happy to help you explore your real estate options throughout Maryland and Delaware. There is never any pressure - just knowledgeable guidance to help you decide what is right for your family.

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