

Tips and trends for homeowners, buyers and sellers

Childproofing Your Home

Childproofing your home is essential for keeping children who may be spending time in the space safe from potential dangers. Here are some tips to help in your efforts to keep kids safe.

► Doorknob covers

One of the first steps in childproofing your home is to ensure your kids can't get into rooms or areas they aren't supposed to be in. Doorknob covers help prevent a child from properly grabbing, turning and opening doors. They should be placed on all doors that lead out of your home, bathroom doors and other rooms that aren't childproofed.

► Cabinet locks

Securing your cabinets is another safety precaution when you have young children in your home. Internal locks can be screwed into the inside of your cabinet, although they are prone to breaking. External locks can be attached to the outside of the cabinet, but you must remember to put the lock back on each time you access them.

► Stove guard

A stove is a major home hazard for children. To prevent a child from playing with this appliance, a stove guard can stop your children

from getting burned by the stovetop or accidentally turning on the burners.

► Fireplace gate

Many homes have fireplaces, and they can be significant safety hazards. Utilizing a fireplace gate is a great way to keep children safe while the fire is burning.

► Stair gates

Securing the stairs is crucial to childproofing your home. Installing stair gates prevents falls or other mishaps that could injure your child. Gates should be installed on the top and bottom of every staircase in the home.



Doorknob covers



Gates



Cabinet locks



Stove guard



How To Install Motion Sensor Lights

1 Turn off the electricity.

Turn off the power to the fixture at the main panel. Ensure the current is off. Rub one lead of a voltage tester against the ground wire and rub the other lead first against the hot wire (black), then the neutral wire (white). If the tester lights up, the power is on.

2 Install a larger electrical box, if necessary.

If the existing electrical box is too small, install a replacement one. Plastic boxes have the size in cubic inches stamped on them.

3 Wire the new fixture.

Mount the motion sensors according to the manufacturer's instructions. Run the wires through the

rubber gasket. Connect the neutral wires (white), hot wires (black) and ground wires (green/bare copper) with wire connectors.

4 Mount the fixture.

Screw the fixture into place. Make sure the rubber gasket seals the edges of the box so that moisture won't get in. (Pro tip: Apply a bead of clear silicone caulk around the edges, if necessary.)

5 Aim the security light.

Aim the motion detector sensor and the motion detector light at the field of view you want illuminated. Point the light bulbs to the area you want to be lit. Keep the bulbs as far away from the detector as possible.

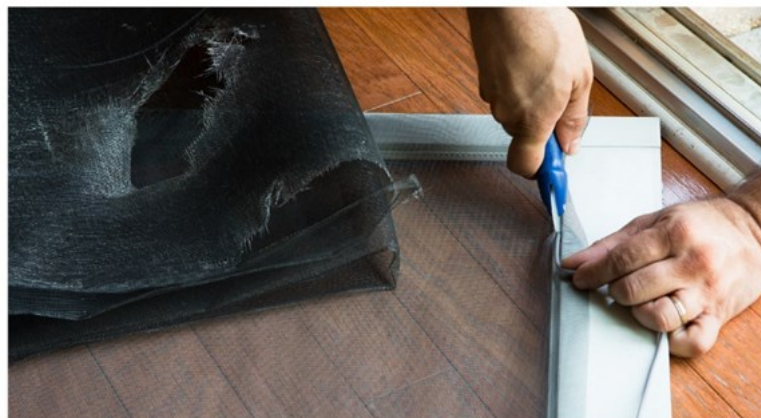
Adding a motion sensor light to the outside of your home offers peace of mind and security. Here is a step-by-step process for installing one yourself.



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How to Replace a Torn Window Screen

Window screens add an extra layer of protection to your home by preventing animals, insects or other debris from entering your home. Window screens can get damaged or torn but can be easily fixed or replaced in a few minutes. Take a few minutes to learn how to replace your window screen on your own.



1 Pry out the spline.

Pry out the old spline (the cord that attaches the window screen to the frame) with an awl or narrow-tipped screwdriver. Before disposing of the old spline, cut a short piece to use as a guide for getting the correct diameter for the replacement spline.

2 Secure the frame.

Secure the frame to ensure that it doesn't bow or bend while installing the new screen material.

3 Install the new window screen in the frame.

Lay the new screen over the frame; it should overlap the frame by about $\frac{3}{4}$ -1 inch. Cut each corner at a 45-degree angle slightly beyond the spline groove. This will keep the new screen from bunching in the corners.

4 Push the new screen in.

Begin installing the new spline at the corner of the frame. Use a screen rolling tool to push the spline and screen material into the groove of the frame. If wrinkles or bulges appear, remove the spline and start over. Small wrinkles should become taut as you return to the starting corner.

5 Trim the screen.

Trim excess screen material using a utility knife with a sharp blade. (A dull blade will not cut the screen material properly.)



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