

How to Buy Your Own Home

Unit 4: Lesson 1: Protecting and maintaining your home

A Checklist for New Homeowners

Know your major systems

Ask the previous owner or the person who inspects your home where to find and how to use the following:

- fuse box or circuit breakers
- main water cut-off valve
- hot water heater
- outside faucets
- gas supply line
- furnace
- air conditioner
- sump pump (if you have one)
- smoke alarms
- storm windows/window screens

Obtain manuals and warranties

Ask the prior owner to give you all manuals and warranties for the following:

- refrigerator
- stove
- furnace
- hot water heater
- air conditioner
- washer
- dryer

Other appliances:

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

Local collection services

Ask the previous owner or a neighbor when the following take place:

- garbage collection
- recycling collection
- collection for leaves, yard work, larger items

Utilities

Ask the previous owner or a neighbor for the name, address, and phone number of the utility companies in your area. Or look in the blue pages of your phone book to find them.

- electricity
- water
- gas
- local telephone
- long-distance telephone
- cable

Location of local services

Before you move in, find out the location of some local services you may use, such as:

- nearest hospital
- public schools
- adult education classes
- library
- park
- recreation center
- pharmacy
- grocery store
- public transportation