

10/4 Standard

Tested. Verified. Documented.

Every October 4, check the four systems your home depends on:
Water, Electric, Safety and Temperature (W.E.S.T.).

Home or address _____ Date _____ Completed by _____

Most home problems don't announce themselves. They show up at 2 a.m., during a storm or while you're away for the holidays. This check takes about 45 minutes once a year, and it's the easiest way to find the small things before winter turns them into big ones.

Short on time? Do the four ★ checks. About 15 minutes, covering what matters most.

Mark each check:
Good — it worked
Fix — something's wrong
Not sure — couldn't confirm it

W Water

about 10 minutes

1. Find your main water shutoff ★

Locate it, label it and make sure everyone in the house knows where it is.
Never force a stiff or corroded valve.

☐
Good

☐
Fix

☐
Not sure

2. Look for leaks

Check under sinks, around toilets, behind the washer and around the water heater for drips, stains or rust.

☐
Good

☐
Fix

☐
Not sure

3. Test leak sensors and the sump pump

If you have them, follow the device's test instructions and confirm the alert reached your phone. Never reach into a sump pit.

☐
Good

☐
Fix

☐
Not sure

E Electric

about 10 minutes

4. Press TEST on your GFCI outlets

Usually found in kitchens, bathrooms, the garage and outdoors. The outlet should cut power, and RESET should restore it.

☐
Good

☐
Fix

☐
Not sure

5. Check surge protectors and battery backups ★

Look for a "protected" light, not just a power light, and run the battery backup's self-test. Note what goes down if the power does.

☐
Good

☐
Fix

☐
Not sure

S Safety

about 15 minutes

6. Test every smoke and CO alarm ★

Press and hold the test button until it sounds. Check the date on the back and replace smoke alarms that are 10 years old or more.

☐
Good

☐
Fix

☐
Not sure

7. Check locks and cameras

Try each door lock, replace low smart-lock batteries and play back a saved camera clip. A live view doesn't prove it's recording.

☐
Good

☐
Fix

☐
Not sure

8. Confirm alerts reach the right phones

Send a test alert and have everyone who should get it confirm they did. Update emergency contacts. If your alarm is monitored, call your provider first so a test doesn't trigger a response.

☐
Good

☐
Fix

☐
Not sure

T Temperature

about 10 minutes

9. Run the heat

Check or change the filter, open the vents and listen for unusual sounds. Note rooms that won't warm up and book service before the first cold snap.

☐
Good

☐
Fix

☐
Not sure

10. Plan for freezing weather ★

Know which pipes are at risk: garage, crawl space and exterior walls. If you have temperature sensors, set a low-temperature alert and confirm it reaches your phone. The American Red Cross advises keeping heat no lower than 55°F when you're away.

☐
Good

☐
Fix

☐
Not sure

Who to call

If you marked "Fix" on...	Call...
Leaks, shutoff, water heater, sump pump	A plumber
Outlets, GFCIs, burning smells	An electrician
Heating or cooling	An HVAC technician
Alarm monitoring	Your security provider
Apps, Wi-Fi, sensors, automation, battery backup	Your home technology integrator

Your Home Record

Write it down once and you'll have it next year, or when a technician asks.

Main water shutoff location

Water heater age / last service

HVAC last service

Filter size and next change

Smoke and CO alarm replacement dates

Battery backup age and what it powers

Alarm monitoring provider and phone

Follow-Up Plan

Check #	What needs attention	Next step	Who	By when

Before You Finish

- ☐ Photograph your shutoff, alarm dates and anything marked "Fix"
- ☐ Put each "Fix" on the calendar with a name and a date
- ☐ Save this checklist with your home records
- ☐ Set a reminder for next October 4

Done? Your home is 10/4.

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This checklist is a homeowner self-check, not a professional inspection, safety certification or guarantee of future performance. Follow each device's instructions and call a qualified professional for anything unfamiliar or unsafe. Keep passwords and alarm codes out of photos.