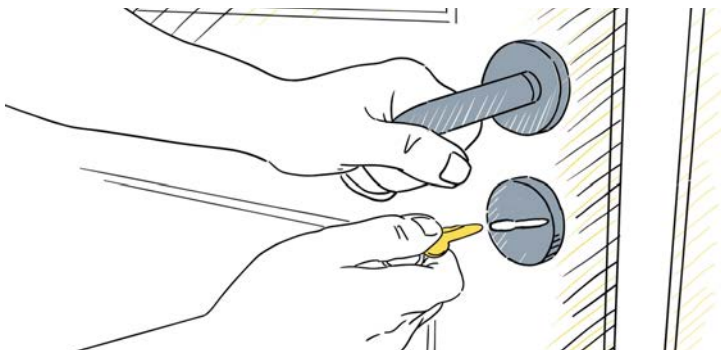


# HOME SAFETY

**K**nowing how to manage home safety is important - for you, those you live with, and your neighbors.

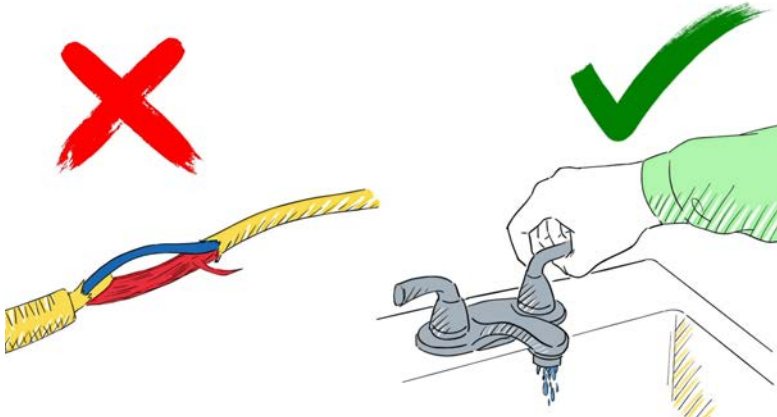
## BASIC HOME SAFETY

When you move into your new home, spend time meeting your immediate neighbors and other people who live nearby. When you're familiar with your community, it is easier to notice if something is out of place or if there are strangers who you don't recognize.



To keep everyone safe, lock outside doors at all times. Do not allow strangers into your home. Close and lock your windows when you're not home.

If you're away from home for a long time, consider using a timer to make a light or TV turn on and off automatically. This can make it seem like you're home, which can help prevent strangers from entering your house.



Finally, use and maintain appliances and bathroom facilities as instructed. For example, don't use damaged electrical cords and turn sink, shower, or bath water off completely when not in use.

## FIRE SAFETY

To protect your home from fires, know how to use your fire extinguisher and understand how smoke detectors work. If you rent, your landlord must provide working smoke detectors and a fire extinguisher. *Never* remove smoke detector batteries. If your fire detector beeps, change the battery.

Here are some other fire safety tips:

- Make a fire escape plan with your family and practice it. Also, test your smoke detectors regularly.
- Don't leave stove top burners, hot plates, ovens, or portable space heaters on unattended. Never use your stove top or oven for heat. Don't place items close to space heaters.



- Never leave burning candles or incense unattended.
- If you have a clothes dryer, regularly clean the lint filter.



- Don't leave washers or dryers running when you are not home.
- Keep lighters and matches away from children.



## CALLING 9-1-1

Know how to call 9-1-1 for emergency assistance if something life-threatening happens and needs immediate police, firefighter, or emergency medical support. Here are some examples of when you should call 9-1-1:

- You can't stop a fire with your extinguisher.
- Someone at home has trouble breathing, faints and cannot be revived, or has had a severe accident.
- A stranger is trying to break into your home or is threatening your family.



**By following these home safety tips, you can create a safe and comfortable living environment for you and your family.**

Cultural Orientation Resource Exchange

For more information, visit Settle In at [settlein.us.org](http://settlein.us.org).



This resource was created in partnership with Refugee Housing Solutions. Refugee Housing Solutions is a project of Church World Service under an agreement paid for by the U.S. Department of State.