



Comprehensive Residential Security Checklist for South Africa

Below is a checklist that incorporates all six lessons in a layered approach to residential security for South Africa. This checklist forms part of the Home-Safe-Home: A South African Perspective short course presented by LearnYa Skills.

You can use this table to review and implement practical recommendations, as presented in the short course. Simply mark the "Implemented?" checkbox when complete and note a "Check/Review Date" for ongoing inspections.

Category	Short Description	Action to be Taken	Implemented	Review Date
Risk Assessment & Understanding Threats	Evaluate local crime, home invasions, and cyber risks.	Conduct a detailed risk analysis; document recent local incidents and identify vulnerabilities.		
Layered Security Strategy	Integrate multiple defenses (physical, digital, procedural).	Develop and document a comprehensive security plan that combines physical barriers, smart technologies, and community protocols.		
Perimeter Fencing & Gates	Secure physical boundaries with anti-climb materials and controlled access.	Install 1.8–2.4m high anti-climb fences and reinforced automated gates equipped with modern access control systems and safety features.		
Exterior Lighting	Illuminate vulnerable areas to deter intrusions effectively.	Install motion-activated, solar-powered lights at a height of 1.8–3.0m, ensuring full coverage around entry points and potential blind spots.		
Landscaping	Maintain clear sightlines and minimize cover for intruders.	Follow the 0.6–0.6–1.8 rule for trimming shrubs and trees; strategically plant defensive species along vulnerable boundaries.		
Securing Entry Points	Fortify doors, windows, garages, and access points.	Upgrade to high-quality locks, install smart locks and impact-resistant or laminated glass; use video doorbells for remote visitor verification.		
Alarm Systems & Surveillance	Detect and alert to suspicious activity within the home.	Implement integrated alarm systems linked with CCTV and motion detectors; ensure systems are connected to a reputable security company.		
Safe Haven Setup	Create an internal refuge for emergencies.	Designate a secure room with minimal external exposure; reinforce the door, stock it with a 72-hour supply of water, food, first aid, communication devices, and backup power.		
Fire Safety Measures	Prepare for fire emergencies with early detection and safe evacuations.	Install interconnected smoke detectors and multipurpose fire extinguishers; develop and routinely practice fire escape plans and drills.		
Smart Device Security	Protect smart home devices from cyberattacks.	Use unique, strong passwords for every device, enable two-factor authentication, and regularly update firmware; disable and remove unused devices.		
Network Security	Secure the home network against unauthorized access.	Configure Wi-Fi with WPA3 encryption, change default router settings, disable WPS, set up separate guest networks, and consider using a VPN.		
Monitoring & Alerts	Continuously monitor digital systems for anomalies.	Enable real-time notifications for unusual activity on devices and routers; regularly review logs and use centralized smart hubs for management.		
Neighborhood & Community Engagement	Leverage community support to enhance local security.	Join neighborhood groups (e.g., WhatsApp, Telegram, or Facebook), participate in neighborhood watch programs, and use group messaging for security updates.		
Family Preparedness	Ensure all family members know safety protocols and emergency responses.	Educate children and teens on personal safety, emergency numbers, and conduct regular family drills; maintain an updated emergency contact list.		
Security While Away	Protect the home in your absence.	Program smart lighting and automated window coverings to simulate occupancy; arrange for mail collection and safeguard valuables in a lockable, fireproof safe.		
Routine Maintenance & Drills	Regularly inspect and hone all security measures.	Schedule weekly visual checks and periodic professional inspections for all systems; conduct regular emergency and fire drills.		
Backup Systems & Emergency Supplies	Ensure uninterrupted security during outages and emergencies.	Install battery backups and alternative power for alarms and lights; maintain and update a complete 72-hour emergency supply kit.		
Periodic Audits & System Updates	Continuously review and update your security posture.	Regularly audit all security measures; update software and firmware; consult security professionals to address emerging threats.		

Use this checklist as a practical guide to establish and maintain a safe, layered security system for your home in South Africa. Regularly review and update each item to ensure your security measures continue to offer optimal protection.