

Rural Home Security Audit

Walk your property from the outside in. Check each item, note weak spots, and choose the improvements that will make the biggest practical difference.

1. Property & Access

- ☐ I know the main vehicle and foot access points to the property.
- ☐ The main driveway and property address are clearly identifiable.
- ☐ Unused or secondary gates are secured when appropriate.
- ☐ Fences, gates, and boundaries are checked for damage or unusual activity.
- ☐ I have walked the property after dark and identified blind spots.
- ☐ Vegetation near important approaches does not create unnecessary concealment.

2. House & Entry Points

- ☐ Exterior doors close properly and use working locks.
- ☐ Door frames, hinges, deadbolts, and strike areas are in good condition.
- ☐ Accessible windows close and lock correctly.
- ☐ Sliding doors have appropriate secondary security where needed.
- ☐ Garage doors are normally kept closed when not in use.
- ☐ The door between an attached garage and the house is secured.
- ☐ Security improvements do not block required emergency escape routes.

3. Lighting, Cameras & Detection

- ☐ Exterior lighting covers important doors, walkways, driveway areas, and buildings.
- ☐ Motion lights are aimed and adjusted to reduce unnecessary activations.
- ☐ Cameras provide useful views of high-priority areas.
- ☐ Camera batteries, storage, connectivity, lenses, and night views are checked.
- ☐ Driveway or entry alerts are tested and working.
- ☐ Alarm systems and backup batteries are tested periodically.

4. Outbuildings, Equipment & Fuel

- ☐ High-value barns, workshops, sheds, and storage buildings are secured.
- ☐ Tools, generators, ATVs, trailers, and other portable equipment are protected.
- ☐ Keys are removed from unattended vehicles or equipment when appropriate.
- ☐ Important equipment serial numbers and photographs are recorded.
- ☐ Fuel and other valuable supplies are stored in controlled areas.
- ☐ Expensive equipment is not unnecessarily visible from public roads.

Rural Home Security Audit - Continued

5. Power Outage Readiness

- I know which security systems stop working when grid power fails.
- Critical alarms/cameras have suitable backup power where practical.
- Independent flashlights, headlamps, or lanterns are available.
- Mechanical locks and gates can still be operated without electricity.
- Phones and communication devices can be recharged during an outage.
- The household can receive emergency information if internet service fails.

6. Household Safety Plan

- Household members know not to unnecessarily approach an unknown threat.
- We have a designated retreat area or safer room.
- A working phone or communication method is accessible from that area.
- Children know simple instructions for where to go and who to stay with.
- Our plan includes calling 911 or appropriate emergency services.
- Fire escape routes remain usable despite security improvements.

7. Communication & Community

- We know where cell coverage is strongest on the property.
- We have a backup communication option if normal service is unreliable.
- At least one trusted nearby neighbor has our contact information.
- We know how to contact nearby household members working elsewhere on the property.
- Our address is visible enough for emergency responders to locate us.

Prioritize Your Improvements

Security does not need to be completed all at once. Use this page to turn the audit into a simple 30-day plan.

Priority	What needs attention?	Action / purchase / repair	Target date
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

30-Day Security Plan

Week 1 - Assess

Walk the property in daylight and darkness. Map access points, blind spots, gates, fences, doors, windows, and outbuildings.

Week 2 - Strengthen

Repair weak locks, gates, doors, windows, garages, and high-value storage areas.

Week 3 - Detect

Test or improve lighting, cameras, driveway alerts, alarms, and visibility around important approaches.

Week 4 - Plan

Review the household response plan, retreat area, communications, neighbor contacts, and power-outage security.

Remember: The goal is layered security - deter, detect, delay, communicate, and get people to safety. Protect property, but prioritize people.