



Ten Tools Every New Homeowner Needs

Congratulations on your new home! You're finally the ruler of the castle, the master of your own domain, but don't relax just yet. You'll soon find that along with the pride of homeownership comes the pain of home repairs. Here is our list of the top 10 tools every new homeowner can use right away.

1. Screwdrivers: At the very least you should own a Phillips-head and flat-head screwdriver. You can use these for quick jobs like installing light switch plates, assembling furniture, tightening shelves or cabinet hardware, toy repair, and good old-fashioned prying.

2. Hammer: Choose a hammer with a comfortable, rubber grip, and a smooth head to avoid surface damage or nail slippage

3. Hacksaw or handsaw: Use this tool to cut through plastic tubing, pipes, brackets, and wood. Be sure your hacksaw can be easily fitted with an extra blade.

4. Wrench: Choose a sturdy, adjustable wrench with a good grip. This top tool is going to be sufficient for simple household tasks such as tightening bolts on chairs, shelving, and even simple plumbing fixes.

5. Pliers: Look for pliers with a rubber grip. The adjustable "channel lock" style and the indispensable "needle nose" should

take care of most of your household pinching and pulling. Most "needle nose" pliers also have wire-stripping capabilities.

6. Cordless Drill: A simple, cordless drill will get the job done much quicker and more accurately than your manual screwdriver and will save you tons of time on your "honey-do" list.

7. Tape Measure: You'll be constantly grabbing this handy tool to hang pictures, measure appliances, furniture, floors, and walls. We suggest you invest in a durable, high-quality measuring tape, no less than 25' in length.

8. Level: Don't scrimp on length! Choose a minimum 3-foot level to get maximum use out of this handy tool. Use it to hang shelving, art, curtain rods, mirrors, and anything else you want to look even.

9. Stud Finder: This little device could potentially save you tons of heartache and wall damage by helping you locate those elusive wall studs before you drill.

10. Allen Wrench set: An Allen wrench is a small L-shaped wrench used for those hexagonal sockets so prevalent in build-it-yourself desks and bookshelves.

It's time to make your new house a home, so grab your level and hang those paintings and shelves. With a little confidence, we know you'll be using these basic tools for years to come.



Philip Nastasi Jr

REALTOR®, ABR®, SRES®

DRE # 01892875

Rodeo Realty Inc

Phone: 818-489-1960

pnastjr@justtheperfecthome.com

WWW.JUSTTHEPERFECTHOME.COM

September Calendar

September 2 - Labor Day

September 8 - Grandparents Day

September 11 - Patriot Day

September 23 - Autumn Begins

Homeowner Tip:



Check Gutters & Downspouts

Make sure your gutters and downspouts are ready for Mother Nature.

September is a great month to remove leaves and other debris from your gutters and downspouts. Keep water flowing freely through them and away from your home's foundation.

The Basic and Beautiful Bulb

Bulbs are a great way to create a glorious garden, full of color and variety, and September is the perfect month to plant them. Beginners love their nearly foolproof reliability. Master gardeners relish their design impact.

Whatever your skill level, follow the planting recommendations on the label and get them in the ground this fall.

- Plant bulbs just about anywhere in your garden as long as the soil drains well and there's plenty of sun.

- Plant them in clusters as opposed to a line. Clusters of color have more impact.
- Put lower blooming bulbs in front of the taller blooming bulbs.
- Try planting smaller bulbs directly above the larger ones for a jumbled and unexpected double-decker effect.
- When flowers have completed blooming, cut the flower head off, but leave the plant alone. The foliage will help gather nutrients for the bulb's future use! What can we say? These classics are beautiful inside and out.



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Greet Autumn with Grilled Creamed Corn

Don't put your grill away just yet. Here's a recipe to help ease you out of summer and into fall.

Ingredients:

6 ears corn, shucked
2 tbsp. butter
2 tbsp. all-purpose flour
1 c. milk
2 tbsp. cream cheese, softened
1/4 c. Shredded Monterey Jack
1 jalapeño, minced (optional)
Kosher salt, freshly ground black pepper
2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro

Directions:

Preheat grill or grill pan to high. Grill corn until kernels are charred and slightly softened, 10 minutes. Once cooled, cut kernels off the cob and set aside.

In a large skillet over medium-high heat, melt butter. Whisk in flour, 1 tablespoon at a time, and let cook until bubbly. Whisk in milk, cream cheese and Monterey Jack. Add jalapeño, if using. Cook for another 3 minutes.

Stir in corn kernels and toss to coat, then season with salt and pepper to taste.

Garnish with cilantro and serve.



Photo & recipe courtesy of delish.com