

Preparing to Bring Home Baby

By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

As if there weren't already a long list of preparations for expecting parents to make, it's also time to make your home as baby-friendly as possible.

With proper planning, you can prepare your living space while anticipating your little one's arrival, rather than trying to play catchup after your baby makes his debut.

CHOOSING THE NURSERY

While your baby will likely be spending her first months in your room, it's a good idea to decide on which room will be used when she is ready to sleep on her own.

If you have multiple rooms, consider which one will be most convenient to navigate to in the middle of the night. Remember, you will likely be in and out of the nursery several times, to check on your infant and for late-night bottles.

Decorating the nursery is only part of preparing the room for a baby's entrance. Make sure there are fresh batteries in smoke detectors. You may even consider using "smart" alarms, which sync up to different units in the home. When one senses danger, it will signal each alarm to alert everyone in the house



to react. The National Fire Protection Agency suggests that smoke alarms should be used inside and outside every sleeping room, and on every level of the home.

INTEGRITY OF YOUR HVAC SYSTEM

If you have been putting off upgrading the HVAC system in your home, the arrival of an infant may demand it.

According to the Environmental Protection Agency, indoor air quality is the fourth greatest pollution threat to Americans.

Sure, a new unit can be intimidating to families who are pinching pennies while waiting for baby's debut. However, new systems are extremely efficient. The money you save on your monthly heating and air utili-

ties can help with paying off a loan, if needed.

If your unit has been recently upgraded, you will still want to schedule an appointment with a professional to ensure the vents and air filters are pushing out clean air.

Your infant will likely spend most of his time indoors. An efficient HVAC system is how you can ensure he is breath-

REAL ESTATE 101

Baby in the House

The Consumer Product Safety Commission offers a list of 12 childproofing devices that can help keep children safe at home. The Commission also reminds parents to train older children to re-secure safety devices after disabling them and to pay careful attention to proper installation. The list ranges from old stand-bys such as door-knob and outlet covers and latch locks to more modern concepts such as cordless blinds and anti-scald devices. Read the full list at <https://tinyurl.com/ybmzl7cc>.

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REPLACE FLOORING

Once your baby becomes mobile, she will probably travel to any room in your home she can access. It is crucial that your flooring is in good condition to protect her knees and feet. If your floor has rough or damaged areas, consider calling a handyman to correct the situation before your little one's arrival.



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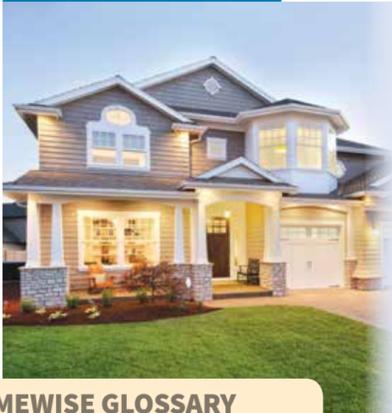
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HOMESWISE GLOSSARY

Equity of redemption: The equity of redemption is the borrower's right to redeem the title pledged or conveyed in a mortgage or deed of trust after default and prior to a foreclosure sale by paying the debt in full, accrued interest and the lender's costs.

SOURCE: Columbia University

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