Home Network Safety Checklist

Sentinel Safeguard LLC - Kansas City, Missouri - Free to print and share. No email required, ever.

The router itself

- [ ] Change the router admin password from the factory one to a long, unique password used nowhere else.
- [ ] Update the router firmware, and turn on automatic updates if the router offers them.
- [ ] Turn off remote management from the internet unless you turned it on for a specific reason.

The Wi-Fi people join

- [ ] Set a strong Wi-Fi password - a long passphrase beats a short clever one.
- [ ] Use WPA2 or WPA3 security in the Wi-Fi settings; retire WEP and "open" networks entirely.
- [ ] Turn on the guest network for visitors, and join guests to it instead of your main network.

The devices on it

- [ ] Put smart TVs, cameras, plugs, and other gadgets on the guest network or a separate IoT network where the router supports it, so a compromised gadget cannot reach your computers.
- [ ] Change every device's default password - cameras and recorders first.
- [ ] Remove devices you no longer use, and update the ones that stay.

If something looks wrong

- [ ] Restarting fixes glitches, not intrusions. If a device behaves like it is not yours, take it off the network and get it checked.
- [ ] Keep this sheet with the router password written down somewhere safe at home - on paper, in a drawer, beats a sticky note on the screen.