

How to Prepare Your Home for a New Puppy: Complete Beginner Checklist

1. Create a Safe Puppy Zone

- Choose one main room where your puppy will start (kitchen, living room, etc.)
- Set up a crate (with divider for proper size)
- Add a playpen or baby gate to limit wandering
- Place a soft bed or blanket inside the safe area
- Add a water bowl and 2–3 puppy-safe toys

2. Buy These Essentials Before Puppy Arrives

- Crate
- Playpen or baby gates
- Puppy food (same brand breeder uses)
- Stainless steel food + water bowls
- Collar + leash
- Training treats
- Chew toys (rubber/nylon for teething)
- Snuggle toy or heartbeat plush
- ID tag
- Puppy shampoo + grooming brush
- Enzyme cleaner for accidents
- Microchip registration info

3. Puppy-Proof Your Home

- Hide or cover electrical cords
- Remove toxic houseplants (pothos, aloe, lilies, etc.)
- Secure cleaning supplies, medicine, and chemicals
- Keep shoes, socks, kids' toys, and small items off the floor
- Tie up blind or curtain cords
- Block off stairs or unsafe rooms
- Ensure trash cans have lids or are out of reach



4. Prepare Outdoor Potty Area

- Choose a specific potty spot
- Keep it clean and consistent
- Plan to take puppy out every 30–60 minutes at first
- Purchase poop bags or small waste bin

5. Family Rules to Teach Before Puppy Arrives

- No picking up the puppy without adult supervision
- No running *toward* the puppy
- No disturbing a sleeping puppy
- Keep food and snacks off the ground
- Always pet gently and calmly
- Close doors and gates behind you

6. Create a Simple First-Week Schedule

- **Potty:** every 30–60 minutes
- **Meals:** 3 times daily
- **Training:** 2–3 minute practice sessions
- **Play:** short, supervised bursts
- **Naps:** every 2–3 hours
- **Nighttime:** quiet, dark, predictable routine

7. Prepare for the First Day Home

- Carry your puppy inside (don't overwhelm them)
- Go straight to the potty area before entering the house
- Introduce the safe zone first — not the whole home
- Keep the first hour calm and slow
- Avoid giving food immediately (stomach may be sensitive)
- Introduce crate gently — door open at first



8. Health & Safety Steps

- Register microchip
- Schedule first vet appointment
- Keep vaccination records in one place
- Save emergency vet numbers
- Research local trainers if needed

9. Supplies for Training & Comfort

- Training treats
- Clicker (optional)
- Teething chews
- Puppy pads (optional)
- Long-lasting chew (for crate time)

10. Prepare Yourself Emotionally

- Expect accidents
- Expect interrupted sleep
- Expect a learning curve
- Remember: consistency now equals a calmer, well-adjusted adult dog

