

# homeSAFE Campaign

## Home Elevator Safety Tips



The **homeSAFE (Safety Awareness For Elevators) Campaign** is an industry-led initiative designed to increase home elevator safety awareness. The Campaign seeks to educate homeowners about the important safety requirements.

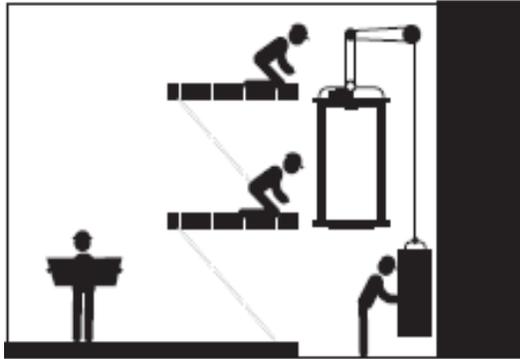
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## Checklist for Existing Home Elevator Owners

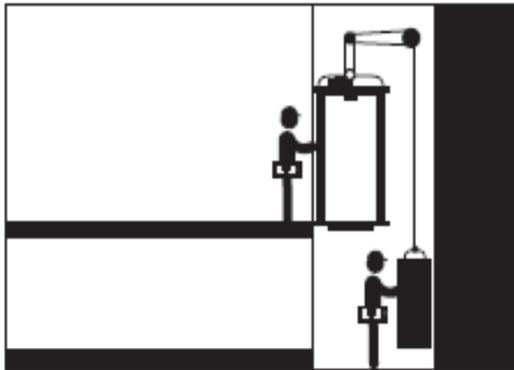
If you already own a home elevator, it's important to ensure your home elevator is in proper working condition. Below are several questions to consider to help you determine if your home elevator is as safe as possible.

### Was your home elevator professionally installed?



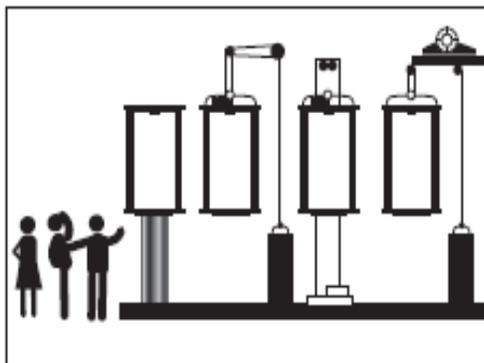
Home elevator installation is a highly skilled process involving many experts. Do not attempt to install a home elevator yourself. It is critical your elevator is installed by a qualified professional (see [“Who should service my home elevator?”](#) on the homeSAFE Campaign site). In fact, some states require elevator mechanics to pass a licensing examination. Check your local or state requirements for licensing. If you are not sure if a professional installed your home elevator, contact a home elevator dealer.

### Has your home elevator ever been professionally inspected?



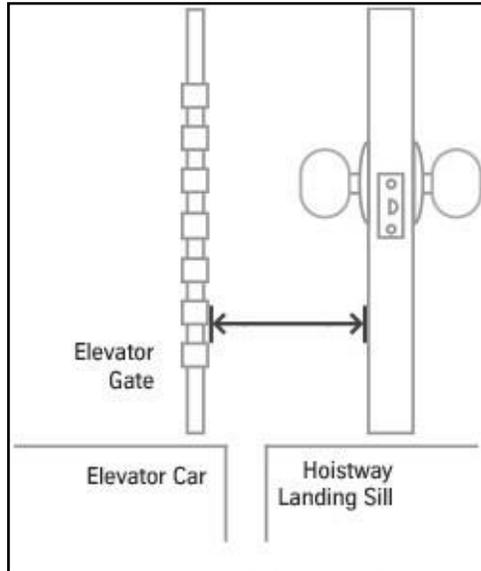
Home elevators should be inspected by a qualified professional as recommended by your home elevator user's manual (see [“Who should service my home elevator?”](#)). In general, some states recommend elevators are inspected prior to initial use or when any alterations are made. This also helps ensure your home elevator complies with applicable industry safety standards. To find a certified inspector in your area, please visit your state's department of labor and licensing website.

### Do you know the type of elevator you have and if it requires additional safety features?



While most home elevators are safe if installed, operated and maintained correctly, there are some home elevator models and features which pose greater risk, especially to children, and should include additional features to enhance safety, including: vanishing elevator models, models with accordion-fold door gates and models with scissor-style gates.

## Does the “gap space” in your home elevator align with industry safety standards and does it meet your safety needs?



*(Side view of a home elevator)*

The space between the swinging exterior hoistway door and the gate of the elevator cab is commonly referred to as the “gap space.” The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Codes require this space be no more than 5 inches. For more info, see [“How do I determine if a space guard is needed?”](#) in the FAQs of the homeSAFE website ([www.homesafecampaign.com](http://www.homesafecampaign.com)). For additional safety precautions to help prevent child entrapments, homeSAFE recommends making sure the space between the hoistway door and cab gate is no more than 4 inches. Consult a licensed home elevator dealer to measure the clearance of your home elevator’s gap space. To learn more about how gap space is measured, please visit [www.elevatorspaceguard.com](http://www.elevatorspaceguard.com).

Pay attention to the gap space in home elevators, particularly in households with young children, because a child can fit between the hoistway door and the cab door if the space is too large and serious injury or death can occur. Safety features such as space guards, special flush hoistway doors or light curtains can help reduce the space between the elevator doors and the hoistway door and help prevent a child from becoming trapped.

## Is your elevator entryway and interior cab clean and clear of clutter?

Make sure plants and furniture are far enough away from your home elevator entryways so they don’t present tripping hazards. It’s also important to clear the cab of spills and clutter to ensure riders can enter and exit safely.

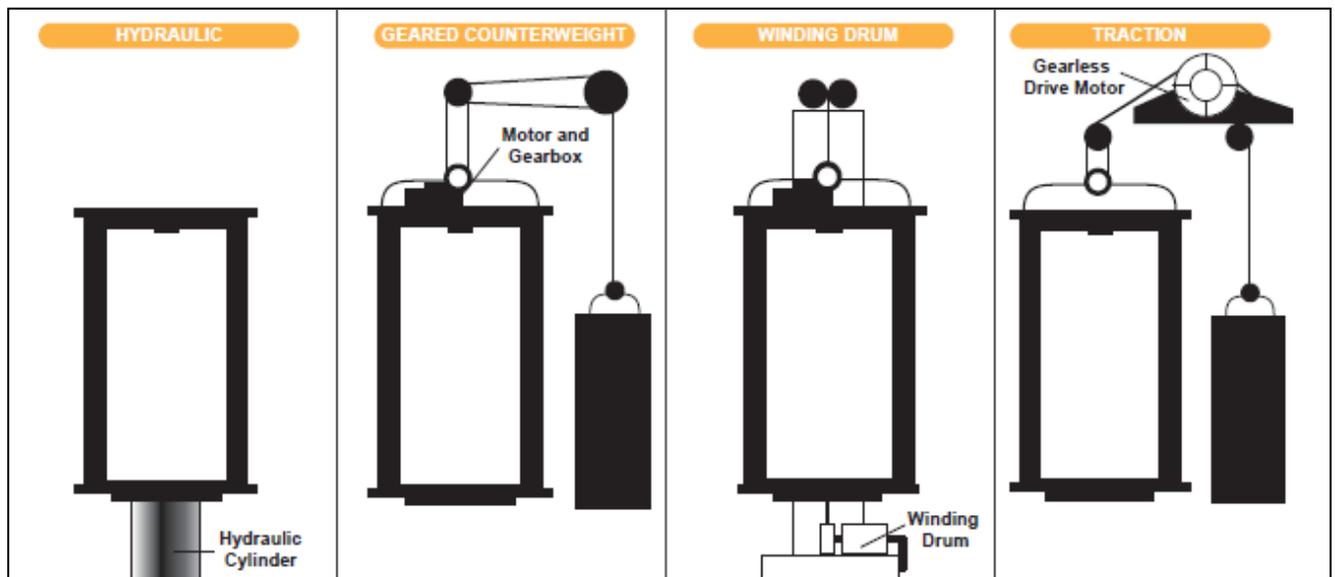
## Checklist for Homeowners Looking for a Home Elevator

If you're thinking about purchasing a home elevator, it is important to understand how to choose the right model and safety features, as well as familiarize yourself with the guidelines and requirements associated with safe home elevator installation and maintenance. Below are points to consider before calling an elevator dealer or contractor.

### 1. Consider your needs and lifestyle

Every homeowner has different needs that necessitate the addition of a home elevator. In order to choose the right elevator model, homeowners should consider a number of factors which will influence the elevator's operation and design.

- **Elevator type** – The installation and maintenance of a home elevator varies according to the type of drive system it uses (how an elevator moves up/down). These include hydraulic elevators, geared-counterweight elevators, winding drum elevators and traction elevators. Homeowners also need to consider a number of additional design factors, including any safety issues for a particular elevator design, size requirements of the elevator cab, the durability of materials needed and the required carrying capacity. To learn more about the types of home elevator systems and how they function, please visit our Interactive Home Elevator Infographic on the homeSAFE Campaign website ([www.homesafecampaign.com](http://www.homesafecampaign.com)). You can also visit the Evaluation Tools page for more information on elevator designs to reduce safety risks.



- **Number of landings served** – The desired number of landings (or stops) accessible via a home elevator can add complexity to installation and maintenance due to the sheer increase in materials and labor required to build the extended elevator shaft length and landing(s). Home elevator models typically begin by serving two landings, but can be installed for additional landings up to 50 feet of travel (approximately five landings).
- **Customization and features** – There are a number of individual component parts required to complete a home elevator. A home elevator is not a self-contained unit or piece of equipment; each individual elevator can be customized in many different areas and can be further customized to suit a homeowner’s decorative taste (e.g., carpeting, mirrors or lighting options in the cab/interior). Many can also be equipped with additional safety features, such as space guards, special flush hoistway doors or light curtains, if needed.
- **Construction/renovations required** – Homeowners need to ensure there is adequate space for the elevator shaft regardless if the elevator is added to an existing home or built into a new home. Creating this space can require significant construction or reconstruction. A home elevator dealer typically works closely with the homeowner and a home builder/contractor/architect to create the most functional and aesthetically pleasing design.

## 2. Understand home elevator safety and maintenance requirements and commit to regular maintenance visits.

Home elevator safety doesn’t end after the installation process is complete. Some home elevator dealers, and state governments, recommend home elevators be inspected at least once each year; however, your home elevator mechanic can provide a better sense of how often inspections are needed. Home elevators, like cars, are machines and need regular maintenance. Homeowners must commit to scheduling regular maintenance visits from a qualified home elevator mechanic. Visit the Safe Home Elevator Installation, Operation and Maintenance Tips section of the homeSAFE Campaign website ([www.homesafecampaign.com](http://www.homesafecampaign.com)) for more maintenance tips.

### 3. Find reputable home elevator dealers in your area.

**Do not attempt to install a home elevator yourself.** Obtaining a qualified dealer is just as essential as purchasing a safe home elevator. A reliable dealer should provide professional guidance and support for the custom installation of your system. The following tips can help you find an appropriate dealer. [Locate a dealer](#) that stocks a wide range of accessibility devices from leading brands so you can choose from many options and find one that suits your needs and budget.

- Ask for estimates from at least three different suppliers/contractors in order to assess a reasonable estimate for installation.
- Check the credentials of the dealer, the manufacturer and the installer by asking for letters of recommendation or checking their status with the Better Business Bureau.
- Ask them to explain how their products comply with industry safety standards or codes.
- Ask how long they have been in business and how many lifts or elevators they have already installed.
- Contact your local state licensing office to ensure they are licensed or certified to install home elevators.
- Always purchase your home elevator from a dealer who offers professional support solutions including installation to meet necessary standards, on-call service and efficient maintenance and repair by licensed mechanics. Check if your dealer can arrange for mandatory inspections and testing services.

### 4. If you have small children, or have children who visit, explore additional safety features.

All home elevators should come with standard safety features. However, if children are present in a home and you feel you need additional protection there are several add-on safety features, such as space guards, special flush hoistway doors or light curtains, available today. Visit the [Know Your Safety Features](#) section of the homeSAFE Campaign website for a list of common safety features and their uses.

Remember, if you have any questions about your home elevator installation or safety protocol, contact an authorized home elevator dealer and visit [www.homesafecampaign.com](http://www.homesafecampaign.com) for more information.