CHECKLIST · BUYING A SAFE

SAFE BUYING CHECKLIST

A printable checklist for choosing, insuring and installing a safe in Australia.

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https://precisionsafes.com.au/wp-content/uploads/safe-guides/safe-buying-checklist.pdf

Use this checklist before you buy a safe for your home or business. Work through it with the product specifications in front of you, and take it to your insurer.

1. What are you protecting?

If you're storing...	Look for
Cash or jewellery	An independently certified burglary rating (e.g. EN 1143-1 grade or EN 14450 S1/S2) and a cash rating your insurer accepts
Paper documents (passports, wills, titles)	An independently certified fire rating for paper, of at least the duration you need
USB drives, hard drives, photos, film	A fire rating for data or media; paper-rated safes get too hot inside for these
Firearms and ammunition	A receptacle that meets your state or territory's storage rules for your licence category
Schedule 8 medicines	A safe that meets your state or territory's health regulations for your type of premises
Australian Government classified information	A SCEC-endorsed container of the class your agency specifies

2. Ratings and certification

☐ The safe has a certification plate naming the certifier, the standard, the grade and a certificate number.

☐ I have looked up the certificate in the certifier's public database (ECB·S, VdS, SBSC, UL Product iQ or the SCEC catalogue).

☐ If the safe is described as "tested to" or "equivalent to" a standard, I have asked who tested it and seen the evidence.

☐ I understand that a cash rating is a suggested limit, not a certificate, and that ratings usually assume no alarm.

☐ If fire protection matters, the safe has its own fire certification (fire and burglary are rated separately).

3. Insurance

☐ My insurer has confirmed in writing that they accept this safe for my premises.

☐ I know the cash limit and the valuables limit they will cover (valuables are often about ten times cash, but the insurer decides).

☐ I know whether a monitored alarm changes the limit.

☐ I have checked whether my policy requires certain items to be kept in a locked safe.

4. Size, location and installation

☐ The internal size fits what I need to store now, with room to grow (measure the inside, not the outside).

☐ I have checked the floor can take the weight, and access for delivery (stairs, doorways, lifts).

☐ The safe will be anchored to the floor or wall as the manufacturer specifies; not anchoring can void the certification and affect insurance.

☐ The location is hidden from casual view and, for fire safes, away from known flood risk.

☐ I know how the lock works (key, combination or digital), how codes are changed, and who holds keys or codes.

5. After installation

☐ I have kept the certificate, receipt, installation details and the insurer's written confirmation together (not in the safe).

☐ I have recorded the serial number and the lock or key details in a secure place.

☐ If the lock is ever replaced, I will check the new lock is allowed by the safe's certificate.

More detail

Our companion guides explain each step: **Safe Burglary and Cash Ratings in Australia**, **Safe Fire Ratings Compared**, **Firearm Storage Requirements by State and Territory** and **Schedule 8 Drug Storage Requirements by State and Territory**. All are free at precisionsafes.com.au/safe-guides/

How to cite this document
Precision Safes (2026). *Safe Buying Checklist* (version 1.0). Reviewed by Mathew Younis. Retrieved from `https://precisionsafes.com.au/wp-content/uploads/safe-guides/safe-buying-checklist.pdf`
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