

# Good Neighbor

## WESTERN MONTANA

## Newcomer Checklist

START HERE AS YOU SETTLE  
IN TO WESTERN MONTANA.

GoodNeighborMT.com



### Protect Your Property

- Create defensible space around your home (clear debris, space trees, move firewood).
- Schedule a home fire risk assessment.
- Learn about your utility providers—water source, propane, power—and plan for outages.
- Ask neighbors how they handle winter prep, plowing and seasonal maintenance.



### Engage With Your Community

- Introduce yourself to neighbors and learn how things work locally.
- Find out which districts serve your property (fire, school, water, etc.).
- Attend a local event, meeting or volunteer opportunity.
- Support local businesses and services.



### Understand Tribal Lands and Local Context

- Learn about the Tribal Nations near you.
- Know that tribal lands are sovereign—not public land.
- Ask permission or obtain permits before accessing tribal lands.
- Take time to learn about the history and culture of each tribe.



### Live Responsibly Outdoors

- Always follow Leave No Trace principles.
- Never feed wildlife; secure food and garbage.
- Stop at all aquatic invasive species inspection stations when boating (required).
- Check land ownership before recreating—don't assume access.

## Driving and Getting Around

- Prepare your vehicle for winter (tires, emergency kit, half tank of gas).
- Learn to drive on snow, ice and gravel roads.
- Check road conditions before traveling (especially in winter).
- Note that cell service is spotty and map directions ahead of time.



## Seasonal Home Readiness

- Fall: winterize pipes, check heating systems, fill propane early.
- Winter: keep access clear for deliveries and emergency vehicles.
- Spring: inspect for damage and begin property cleanup.
- Summer: maintain defensible space and follow fire restrictions.



## Everyday Montana Living

- Expect limited services in some areas (trash, internet, delivery).
- Plan ahead—stores, services and help may be farther away.
- Build relationships—local knowledge is one of the most valuable resources here.



## Quick Start (First Month)

- Set up mail delivery or PO box.
- Register your vehicle and update your address.
- Locate your nearest hospital, grocery store and fuel station.
- Sign up for local alerts (weather, fire, emergencies).



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