



Home Fire Prevention Checklist

Keep your family safe from fire.

Use this checklist to protect your home against some leading causes of fire.

- Do you have smoke alarms on every floor of your home - and near or inside all sleeping areas? New construction requires a smoke alarm in each bedroom. It is recommended that alarms be wired together so if one sounds, they all sound.
- Do your smoke alarms work? (Test them monthly)
- Are any smoke alarms in your home more than ten (10) years old? If so, replace them.
- Does your family have a home fire escape plan? And do you practice it every six (6) months?
- Automatic home fire sprinkler systems can control or extinguish fires in less time than it takes the fire department to arrive. Have you considered installing them in your home?
- Are your portable fire extinguishers in good condition and fully charged?

Kitchen safety...

- Is your stove top clean - no grease, spills, or clutter?
- Does a grown-up always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?
- Are pot handles turned toward the back of the stove?

Heating equipment...

- Are space heaters at least three (3) feet away from walls and anything else that can burn?
- Does your fireplace have a sturdy screen to catch sparks?
- Has your heating system been professionally inspected or serviced in the past twelve (12) months.
- Has your chimney been inspected or cleaned in the past twelve (12) months?

Smoking materials...

- Do you have large, deep, non-tip ashtrays for smokers?
- Are matches and lighters locked up high, out of children's sight and reach?
- Do smokers wet all butts and ashes before throwing them away?

House wiring...

- Do your fuses or circuit-breakers match the circuits they protect? (Have them professionally inspected) A new device required in many areas is an AFCI (arc-fault circuit-interrupter), which detects abnormal arcing in a circuit.
- Are bathroom and kitchen outlets protected by ground-fault circuit-interrupters (GFCI's)?

Candles...

- Are candles blown out when grown-ups leave the room or go to sleep?
- Do you have sturdy non-tip and non-combustible candle holders?
- Are lit candles kept a safe distance from anything that can burn?

Hazardous materials...

- Are paints, gasoline, and other flammable liquids stored away from flames and sparks? Are they stored outside the home in a shed or detached garage?

Information provided courtesy of *Home Fire Prevention Checklist*, National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101.