

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST: CHECK, CORRECT and PREVENT A FIRE EMERGENCY



A serious fire can occur in any part of your home. Use this checklist to make a safety check of your home. Get the whole family involved with your inspection and be sure to correct any things that may be dangerous. Remember to have a home escape plan and practice it regularly.

	YES	NO
General		
Do you have an escape plan with at least two ways out of every room in your home?		
Is your escape plan posted and regularly practiced?		
Do you have a central meeting place?		
Have you included caregivers in your drills?		
Are all the exits clear of furniture and assorted belongings that may hamper a quick exit?		
Is everyone clear on dialing the 911 Emergency for fire, police and medical emergencies?		
Is your civic address posted correctly at the end of your driveway?		
Do your children know their civic address?		
Are the children educated on the dangers of fire?		
Do you leave a responsible person with your children when you go out?		
When you employ babysitters, do you instruct them on what to do in case of a fire?		
Is there a smoke detector installed outside each sleeping area?		
Is the house clear of unused boxes, unused items, piles of clothes and other combustibles?		
Are fuses or circuit breakers the right size?		
Are all the batteries changed regularly in the smoke and CO detectors?		
Is the use of extension cords minimized? Avoid using them whenever possible.		
If you have an attached garage, is it separated by a fire-retardant door which is kept closed?		
Are you sure NEVER to use flammable liquids for cleaning clothes or starting fireplaces?		
Does your family (and babysitter) know the first rule in fire emergencies: GET EVERYONE OUT FAST AND DON'T GO BACK INSIDE?		
Kitchen Area		
Are the all appliances in good condition?		
Do the electric skillets and deep fryers have temperature controls?		
Are all appliances approved by a certified testing laboratory? (e.g. U.L.)		
Are appliances unplugged when not in use?		
Are appliances kept safely away from the sink and stove?		
Is excess electrical cord rolled up to prevent an accident?		
Are any and all frayed cords or exposed wires repaired or replaced?		
Is someone always attending while items are being cooked or prepared?		
Is everyone aware of the risks of cooking with grease or oil?		
Do you have a pan lid or baking soda available to stifle a pan fire?		
Is your oven clean of grease and food splatters?		
Do the people making meals avoid wearing loose-fitting clothing?		
Is the area above the stove clear and not used as a storage area for any combustibles?		
Are aerosol spray cans and flammable liquids kept away from the stove?		
Are wastebaskets and other combustibles kept away from the stove?		
Is there a suitable fire extinguisher in the kitchen?		

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Was the extinguisher inspected within the last year?		
Have family members been trained in the proper use of extinguishers?		
<i>Dryers</i>		
Are the dryer vent pipes cleaned of any lint on a regular basis?		
Is a lint filter cleaned or a new one installed at the time of each use?		
Is the dryer shut off before you leave the house?		
<i>Cellar, Attic, Storage and Work Areas</i>		
Are old newspapers and other rubbish discarded and the area clean?		
Are all combustibles stored away from the heat source and never under stairs?		
Is all gasoline or other flammable liquids stored outside the house?		
Are paints, solvents, and other flammable liquids stored in metal storage containers?		
Are all oily or greasy rags properly disposed of or stored in labeled metal containers?		
<i>Bedroom</i>		
Are bedspreads, drapes, and laundry kept away from radiators and electric heaters?		
Have all windows been checked for defects and easy operation?		
Do extension cords only hold one plug?		
Are cords used properly, that is never under rugs, not over doorways or hung over nails?		
Is there an emergency means of escape from the bedroom?		
Is smoking prohibited in the bedroom?		
Do you have a smoke and carbon monoxide detector installed?		
<i>Living Room</i>		
Are you sure that any lit candles are extinguished before leaving the area?		
Are the lamps free of burnable decorations?		
Are lamps placed a good distance from drapes?		
Are drapes and other combustibles kept well away from baseboards and heating devices?		
When using extension cords for appliances, does the gauge of both cords match?		
Are cords used properly, that is never under rugs, not over doorways or hung over nails?		
<i>Matches, Lighters and Smoking</i>		
If you permit smoking, are any smokers responsible for their smoking materials?		
If you permit smoking, are any smokers using proper ashtrays and not cups, cans, or lids?		
If you permit smoking, are all ashtrays on tables and not on the arms of a chair or sofa?		
Is your family aware that ashtrays should never be emptied into wastebaskets?		
Are all matches, lighters or any lit candles kept safety out of the reach of children?		

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Are you sure that any candles are being used safely?		
Do you use noncombustible containers to set candles on?		
Heating Systems		
Has your wood stove or fireplace been installed according to existing building codes?		
Has your fireplace or woodstove been professionally cleaned each year?		
Do you burn seasoned wood and is it stored in the proper place?		
Is all wood fuel stored in a dry vented area?		
Is the fireplace equipped with the appropriate sized screen?		
Are all ashes stored safely outside in a metal container?		
Do you always ensure that the fireplace is out before leaving the house?		
Does the stove sit on a non-combustible or on a code-specified floor protector?		
Does your chimney have a "spark arrester" or spark catching cover?		
Are you careful to never use gasoline or other flammable liquid to start the fireplace?		
Are all flue pipes that pass through attics, floors, ceilings and walls properly installed?		
Are only proper fuels used in the stove according to manufacturer's instructions?		
If you use oil heat or gas heat, is the equipment listed by the proper laboratories e.g. (UL)?		
Is the filter for your forced air heater changed yearly and the venting cleaned?		
Has the furnace or heating system been professionally cleaned this year?		
Do all portable heaters bear the label of a safety testing agency e.g. (UL)?		
If you use a kerosene heater are you sure that the fuel is not contaminated prior to using it?		
Do you always have adequate ventilation when using portable kerosene heaters ?		
If using kerosene heaters, do you have carbon monoxide detectors installed ?		
Do you always refill the fuel tank of your kerosene heater outdoors?		
Are you careful never to leave children alone with a portable heater or wood stove?		
Are all combustibles at least three feet away from the stove or other heating appliance?		
Is the inside basement door properly fitted and kept closed at night?		
Outside Areas		
Is the outside of the house clear of debris or dead vegetation left near the house?		
Are areas outside all doors and bedroom windows clear to allow a safe escape?		
Has your propane barbecue been checked for hose leaks and cracks?		
Is all gasoline stored in a strong, clearly labeled red gasoline safety-type can?		