

HOME SAFETY INSPECTION

FIRE PREVENTION CHECKLIST FOR THE HOME

Is your home really safe? A few simple steps can save your life and the lives of those you love. This simple checklist will help you prevent fire in your home. Check each box as you complete the tasks.

Fire Protection and Preparedness:

- Smoke alarms are installed on every level of your home and near each sleeping area.
- Batteries are working in all smoke alarms.
- Test your smoke alarm monthly.
- If you are hearing and/or vision impaired, install the appropriate smoke alarm.
- Create a home escape plan.
- Practice your home escape plan.
- If you use a wheelchair or walking aid, check each possible exit route carefully.
- Windows and doors open easily from the inside.
- Keep all important papers together in a safe place.
- Catalog and update your household inventory list for insurance claims.

Living Area:

- Space heaters are kept at least 36 inches from everything that can burn.
- Electrical cords and plugs are in good condition.
- Candles are blown out when leaving the room or going to sleep.
- Candles are only burned in sturdy, non-tip, and non-combustible holders.
- Bathroom and kitchen outlets are protected by ground-fault circuit-interrupters.

Kitchen:

- Install a fire extinguisher within easy access of the kitchen area and know how to use it.
- Keep cooking area free of clutter.
- Keep a close eye on the food you are cooking.
- Keep clothing away from burners or other open flame.
- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Ensure electrical outlets are not overloaded.
- Maintain appliances free from grease build-up.
- When cooking, turn pot and pan handles in to keep them from being knocked over.

Bedroom:

- Never smoke in bed!
- Keep flashlight readily available with fully charged batteries.
- Keep a whistle by your bed to warn others of a fire and to alert rescuers of your location.

PREVENT FIRES
IT'S YOUR JOB!

Bathroom:

- Ensure curling irons and hot rollers are unplugged after each use.
- Ensure your water heater is set at 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower to prevent scalds and burns.

Garage:

- Keep newspapers, empty boxes, paints, and gasoline cans away from pilot lights, heaters, and outlets.
- Store gasoline and other flammable liquids in approved safety cans that prevent the escape of flammable vapors.
- Store paints, gasoline, and other flammable liquids away from open flames and sparks. Keep paints, gasoline, and other flammable liquids in a shed or detached garage.

Exterior:

- Address numbers are at least 3-5 inches in height, are contrasting color from the rest of the exterior, and are clearly visible from the street.
- Firewood is stacked at least ten feet from your home.
- Ensure the exterior of your house is clear of trash and dead grass or shrubs.
- Ensure when barbecuing you are at least three feet from the house when cooking. Never use charcoal-type grills on a wooden deck or porch.
- Dispose of ashes and coals in a metal container away from the house.
- Ensure your chimney is clean and in good repair.

Before You Go to Bed or Lie Down:

- Fully extinguish smoking materials (cigarettes, cigars, etc.).
- Turn off the oven and burners.
- Unplug the coffee pot.
- Fully extinguish all candles or oil lamps.
- Turn off heating pad.
- Keep eyeglasses near your bedside so you can see to escape and avoid injury.
- Keep house keys and car keys near your bedside so they are easily accessible.

Smoking Materials:

- Use only large, deep, non-tip ashtrays for smokers.
- Keep matches and lighters up high, out of children's sight and reach.
- Smoke outside!

References: *Home Checklist for Older Consumers* www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/701.html;
Home Safety Council www.homesafetycouncil.org; *Fire Safety Checklist for Older Adults,*
United States Fire Administration www.usfa.fema.gov.