

Most fatal fires are home fires. Take a tour of your home and use this checklist to see how safe your household is from fire.

In the Kitchen

YES NO

Do cooks stay in the kitchen while cooking?

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of cooking fires.

YES NO

Is the stove top clean and uncluttered?

Greasy or cluttered stove tops can lead to fires.

Clean your stove's surfaces routinely and keep towels,

cooking utensils, food, packaging, recipes, and other flammable objects away from your burners. The oven and broiler should be clean. Greasy buildup or spilled food can catch fire.

YES NO

Are there oven mitts within easy reach of the stove?

Using oven mitts prevents burns and spilled food that could catch fire.

YES NO

Is the pan lid within easy reach?

If a pan of food catches fire, slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames, then turn off the burner. Don't try to carry or move the pan. Leave the lid in place until the pan is cool to the touch. If the fire spreads, leave and call the fire department from outside.



YES NO

Are your electrical appliances in good condition?

Replace or service any appliance that shows warning signs: gives you a shock when you touch it, gets too hot, or gives off smoke or a smell when in use. Replace frayed or cracked electrical cords.

YES NO

Are the electrical loads on outlets properly limited?

No more than one heat-producing appliance (toaster, coffeemaker, waffle iron) should be plugged into an outlet.

In Living Areas

YES NO

If someone in your household smokes, do you have large, deep, non-tip ashtrays?

Don't just dump cigarette butts into a wastebasket. Wet the contents of ashtrays before you empty them. And check your furniture for smoldering butts if someone has been smoking.

YES NO

Are portable and other space heaters at least 3 feet (1 meter) from anything that can burn?

Turn space heaters off before you go to bed or leave home. Closely supervise children and pets around all heating equipment.

YES NO

Do you have a sturdy screen on your fireplace?

A heavy metal screen or built-in glass doors helps contain fireplace fires and keep sparks from flying into the room.



YES NO

Is your chimney clean?

Each year, have your chimney professionally inspected and clean out any creosote deposits. To minimize buildup, burn only dry, seasoned hard wood in fireplaces and wood-burning stoves. And never burn trash in either.

YES NO

Are matches and lighters out of sight and reach of children?

Matches and lighters should be kept up high and out of sight in a drawer or cabinet, preferably locked, away from the reach of curious children.

Smoke Alarms and Sprinklers

YES NO

Are there working smoke alarms installed on every floor of your home?

Smoke alarms save lives by warning people about a fire in time to escape. Install smoke alarms on every floor (including the basement) and outside every sleeping area — inside as well if people sleep with their doors closed.

YES NO

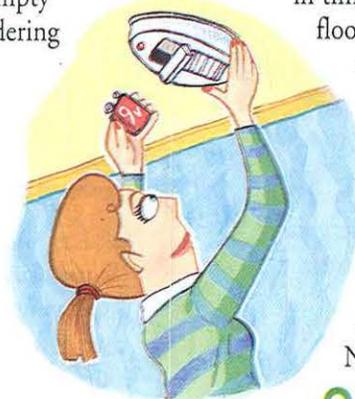
Do all your smoke alarms work?

Test your smoke alarms once a month by pushing the "test" button and replace the batteries once a year (or sooner if an alarm "chirps" to tell you its battery is low). Never borrow batteries from a smoke alarm.

YES NO

Are your smoke alarms clean?

Vacuum smoke alarms to remove dust. Never paint smoke alarms.



YES NO

Are your smoke alarms younger than 10 years old?

Nothing lasts forever; smoke alarms lose their sensitivity over time and should be replaced after 10 years.

YES NO

Do you know that fire sprinklers can be installed in homes?

Automatic fire sprinkler systems control or extinguish fires in less time than it takes for the fire department to arrive. Consider installing them in your home.

Escaping a Fire

YES NO

Does your household have a home escape plan?

Every household should have one and should physically practice it twice a year.

YES NO

Are there two ways out of every room?

That includes windows. In a fire, the usual exits may be blocked by smoke or flame. Everyone must know how they would get out if their primary escape route was blocked.

YES NO

If you have security bars on your windows, do they have quick-release devices?

Make sure doors and doorlocks, security bars, and storm windows as well can be opened quickly and easily from the inside by all members of the household.



Workshops, Storage Areas, and Outdoors

YES NO

Are flammable liquids stored safely?

Never use or bring gasoline inside the home. Store gasoline in an outside shed or detached garage —

in small quantities in safety cans, labeled and approved for gasoline storage. Always store paint and other flammable liquids in their original, labeled containers with tight-fitting lids. Use and store flammable liquids far away from appliances, heaters, pilot lights, and other sources of heat or flame.

YES NO

Are fuses and circuit breakers the right size?

Never replace a fuse or circuit breaker with one that exceeds the circuit's amperage rating. And never replace a fuse with a penny or other conductive material.

YES NO

Are outdoor power supplies safe?

Outdoor receptacles should be weatherproof and protected by a ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs).

YES NO

Do you have a working portable fire extinguisher?

Install your extinguisher on a wall away from your stove, near a door, and out of children's reach. Check your extinguishers once a month, following manufacturer's instructions.



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Fire Prevention All Over Your Home

