



FIRE SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

Fire safety in your home is really important to help protect you, your loved ones, and important contents in your home. Being aware and following these simple steps can help to prevent a fire in your home or help to keep you safe if the worst did happen.

1 INSTALL, MAINTAIN AND TEST A SMOKE ALARM



Smoke alarms can detect a fire before you realise something's wrong. It can give everybody time to escape and minimise the damage caused. By setting off an alert as soon as it detects smoke, a smoke alarm can help you to find the source of the fire before anyone is harmed.

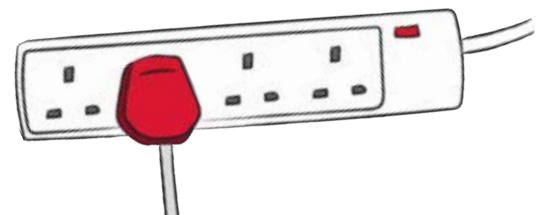


This is why it's important to:

1. Have a smoke alarm installed on at least each floor of your home.
2. Maintain and test that the smoke alarms still work perfectly.

It is recommended that you test your smoke alarm at least once a month and to change the battery once a year. To test your smoke alarm just press the button until an alarm sounds. If your smoke alarm starts to beep regularly you need to replace the batteries immediately.

2 CHECK YOUR ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES



Checking your electrical appliances can prevent fires in your home. The most common causes of electrical fires are faulty sockets, light fixtures, extension leads, portable heaters, outdated wiring and old or faulty chargers.

Check the following:

- That they have a British or European safety mark
- Always keep them clean
- Avoid buying fake/cheap chargers, especially for devices with lithium batteries

Householders also have a tendency to overload sockets, using extension leads and installing multi-point sockets to one plug without realising the risk of doing so. Too many appliances plugged into one place can lead it to overheat and cause a fire.

Try to prevent this by

1. Use one plug per socket as much as possible
2. Unplug appliances that are not in use.

3 SIMPLE FIRE SAFETY CHECKS BEFORE BED

Fires happen when you least expect it, and it is extremely common for fires to happen when you are asleep! You can help to prevent a fire at night in your home with some very simple checks before bed:

- > Check that your oven/hob and other cooking appliances are turned off
- > Ensure there are no open flames still burning before you go to sleep, such as candles, incense sticks, cigarettes etc.
- > Don't leave devices charging overnight, especially things such as e-scooters and e-cigarettes
- > Close all internal doors, in case of a fire, to help prevent it spreading.
- > Turn all electrical appliances that aren't in use off at the wall
- > Ensure door keys are easily accessible for everyone in the home.

4 SAFER COOKING

We all have busy lifestyles and standing over your food when cooking isn't always the most practical use of our time.



If you need to leave the kitchen:

1. You must take any pans off the heat or turn them down significantly to help prevent a fire.
2. Being present whilst cooking isn't without its risks, but clothing, tea towels, clothes etc. may catch fire so taking extra care around exposed flames is essential!

Electrical cooking has become increasingly common, with microwave ready meals, slow cooker recipe books and the kitchen appliance everyone's talking about, the air fryer.

Air fryers have soared in popularity over the past few years due to their convenience, affordability, speed and health benefits. However, there are still safety measures to consider when using one. They use a large amount of voltage, so therefore increase the risk of an electrical fire.

The safest way around this is to

1. Unplug the air fryer when it's not in use
2. Make sure you're in the house and close by when you are using it to cook food.



5 DON'T SMOKE INDOORS

If you're a smoker, it's much safer to smoke outside your home to help avoid a fire. Please remember to ensure your cigarette is put out properly when finished before leaving it, as it could still start a fire outside.

If you can't avoid smoking inside, you must be extra careful when discarding your used cigarettes. The most effective way to avoid a house fire would be to

1. Use an ash tray with a splash of water in the bottom.
2. Stub the end of your cigarette out in the water to ensure it's no longer alight.
3. When getting rid of used cigarette ends, ensure that the ashtray has fully cooled down and dispose in a metal container.

6 HOME INSURANCE

After implementing all the above tips into your daily routine, it is not guaranteed that your house will be fire free, but will help to prevent them where possible. Accidental house fires can't always be helped, and it's essential you know what you're covered for in one of life's unpredictable moments.

Be certain to check your home insurance policy so you know what you are covered for in the event of a fire and what steps to take if required.

