



FIRE PREVENTION

ALL OVER YOUR HOME

If electrical systems and equipment are not well maintained, they become fire hazards. Follow these safety tips to prevent electrical fires:

- Immediately replace any electrical cords that are cracked or frayed or that get hot during use. Don't overload electrical outlets or extension cords.
- If appliances aren't working right, have them repaired by a qualified professional. Disconnect any electrical device if you feel a tingle when you touch it, if it emits a burning smell, or if it blows a fuse.
- Be sure all your electrical appliances are labeled by a national testing laboratory.
- If a fuse blows or a circuit breaker trip in your home, try to find out why. Make sure the new fuse is the right size and amperage. Fuses and circuit breakers protect you; don't tamper with them.
- If there are small children in your home, insert plastic child protector covers into electrical outlets.
- Prevent shocks. Make sure your hands are dry and do not stand in or near water when using appliances such as hair dryers. Unplug them after use. If the inside of an appliance gets wet, have it serviced before using it again.

WORKSHOPS, STORAGE AREAS, & OUTDOORS

Your basement or garage may have flammable materials not found in other parts of your home.

- Exercise fire safety inside and out.
- If you keep gasoline on hand, store it outside your home or in a detached garage. Keep only small quantities and use a laboratory-listed gasoline safety can.

- Always store paint and other flammable liquids in their original labeled containers with tight-fitting lids.
- Use and store flammable liquids well away from appliances, heaters, pilot lights, cigarettes, and other sources of heat.
- Have your furnace checked every year by a professional.
- Remove trash from your home. Don't store anything near the furnace or heater.
- Check to see if your roof is fire retardant. If it is not made of slate or tile, the roofing should be labeled "Class C".
- Never use gasoline on a grill fire. Once the fire has started, use only dry kindling to revive the flame not charcoal lighter fluid. When using grills, place them outside of homes and porches and away from combustibles.
- Before starting your lawn mower, snow blower or motorcycle, move it away from gasoline flumes. Let the motor cool before you refuel.

SLEEPING AREAS

The majority of fatal homes fires happen while people are sleeping. So it is extremely important to install smoke detectors and to practice family escape drills. Remember these fire safety rules...

- Never smoke in bed.
- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home (including the basement) and especially outside every sleeping area. Make sure everyone can hear and recognize the detector's sound. If you sleep with bedroom doors closed, install detectors inside bedrooms, as well.
- Plan and practice two escape routes from each room. If one way out leads through a window above the first floor, make sure you have a way to reach the ground safely. Ask your fire department for advice.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows the home escape plan, the meeting place, and the phone number of the fire department, which they should call from a neighbor's phone, after escaping from the building.

LIVING AND FAMILY ROOMS

Everyone in your home needs to be alert of fire hazards. Here are fire safety rules to follow...

- Use extreme caution with cigarettes! Provide large, deep ashtrays for smokers. Check for smoldering cigarettes under cushions of couches and chairs before you go to bed or leave your home.

- Keep portable and space heaters at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from anything that can burn.
- Always turn heaters off when you go to bed or go out. Never leave children in a room with a portable heater or wood stove operating.
- Use a metal screen on your fireplace. Have the chimney professionally checked once a year and cleaned when necessary.
- Use only the correct fuel or heat: aged wood in fireplaces and woodstoves and only kerosene in kerosene heaters. Refuel a heater in a well-ventilated area, after the heater has cooled.
- Keep lighters and matches up high, preferably in a locked cabinet, where young children can't see or reach them.
- Make sure TVs and stereos have space around them to prevent overheating.

KITCHEN

Stove burners and ovens can burn you or start fires. Be attentive, and practice these safety tips:

- Never leave cooking unattended.
- Keep your stove and oven clean.
- Wear close-fitting sleeves when cooking.
- Do not hang curtains or store things over the stove.
- Turn pot handles inward so they can't be knocked off the stove or pulled down by small children.
- If a grease fire starts, carefully slide a lid over the pan to smother the flames, and turn off the burner.
- Never pour water on a grease fire.
- Never leave potholder on the stove.