











Home Fire Safety Checklist





Use this checklist to help find and correct safety hazards in your home before they can start a fire or injure someone. If you are unable to complete all the items on this checklist yourself, ask a family member or someone close to you for assistance.

Smoke Alarms







1 Do you have smoke alarms in all the right locations? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> 	No or I Don't Know: Install smoke alarms on each level of the home, outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom.	 Smoke alarms save lives. Nearly two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms.
2 Can everyone in your home hear the smoke alarms? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> 	No: Install smoke alarms, notification appliances, and accessories (strobe lights and billow/bed shaker) that are specially designed for people who are hard-of-hearing or deaf.	 Age-related hearing loss may make it difficult for older adults to respond quickly to the sound of a standard smoke alarm.
3 Do you test them once a month? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> 	No: Test smoke alarms once a month by pressing the TEST button.	 Smoke alarms can stop working without showing signs of failure, so regular testing is necessary to ensure they are working properly.
4 Have you changed the batteries this year? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> 	No: Replace batteries at least once a year or sooner if they begin to "chirp" or "beep."	 The smoke alarm will not sound if the batteries have run down.
5 Do you know how old the alarms are? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> 	No: Replace alarms at least every 10 years. The manufacture date should be stamped on the inside of the alarm. Replace alarms if you are unsure of their age.	 The components inside smoke alarms wear out over time, which could affect their operation in an emergency.

Home Fire Safety Checklist (Continued)

Fire Escape Planning








6 Do you have a home fire escape plan? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> 	No: Draw a floor plan of your house and mark two ways out of each room. Make sure to keep physical capabilities in mind when choosing escape routes.	 Escape plans help you get out of your home more quickly in an emergency.
7 Do you practice your fire escape plan? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> 	No: Practice your fire escape plan at least two times per year.	 Practice is important so that you are comfortable with your plan.

Kitchen





8 Do you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time while cooking? YES <input type="checkbox"/>  NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.	 Unattended cooking is the leading cause of kitchen fires.
9 Do you use a timer when cooking? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> 	No: If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly. Using a timer will help remind you that you are cooking.	 Most home cooking fires involve use of the stovetop.
10 Do you use an oven or stove to help heat your home? YES <input type="checkbox"/>  NO <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes: Ovens and stoves are to be used for cooking only. They should never be used to provide heat for your home.	 Using your oven or stove as a source of heat poses a serious risk for burns and fires, as well as potential exposure to poisonous carbon monoxide.

Home Fire Safety Checklist (Continued)

Kitchen (Continued)







<p>11 Are towels, dishcloths, curtains, or other flammable items located close to the stove or other hot surface?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> </p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes: Keep flammable materials and objects away from hot surfaces or appliances. Always wear short sleeved or close fitting clothing while cooking.</p>	<p></p> <p>Flammable objects and loose fitting clothing can easily ignite and cause a fire.</p>
<p>12 Are all appliance cords kept away from hot surfaces?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	<p>No: Move cords away from all heat sources, such as heaters, range, and toaster.</p>	<p></p> <p>Cords can melt or burn from excess heat. This can expose wires and lead to a fire or electric shock.</p>
<p>13 Are countertop appliances plugged in to Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> </p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	<p>Yes: Remember to test GFCIs every month to ensure they are working properly.</p> <p>No: GFCIs are required in locations where electricity & water are in close proximity.</p>	<p></p> <p>GFCIs provide protection from electric shock, but only if they are working properly.</p>

Switches and Outlets





<p>14 Are all switches and outlets working properly?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	<p>No: Have a licensed electrician check these switches and outlets.</p>	<p></p> <p>Improperly operating switches or outlets may indicate an unsafe wiring condition, which could be a fire hazard.</p>
<p>15 Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> </p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes: Stop using these switches and outlets and have them promptly checked by a licensed electrician.</p>	<p></p> <p>Unusual warmth from a switch or outlet may indicate an unsafe wiring condition.</p>

Home Fire Safety Checklist (Continued)

Switches and Outlets (Continued)

<p>16 Do any switches or outlets make crackling, buzzing, or sizzling sounds?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> </p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes: Have a licensed electrician promptly check these switches and outlets.</p>	<p> Unusual noises from a switch or outlet may indicate an unsafe wiring condition.</p>
<p>17 Do all outlets and switches have cover plates that are in good condition?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	<p>No: All outlets and switches should have cover plates. Plates that are missing, cracked or otherwise damaged should be replaced.</p>	<p> Missing or damaged cover plates can cause wiring to be exposed, resulting in a shock and fire hazard.</p>
<p>18 Are any outlets overloaded with too many electrical devices or appliances?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> </p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes: Relocated some devices to an outlet on another circuit. Consider having a licensed electrician install more outlets/circuits to meet your needs.</p>	<p> Overloaded outlets are a serious fire hazard.</p>

Cords

<p>19 Is any cord cracked, frayed, or otherwise damaged?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> </p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes: Do not use damaged cords. Replace the cord or equipment.</p>	<p> Damaged cords may have exposed wires that can be a fire and shock hazard.</p>
<p>20 Are any cords pinched by furniture or in doors/windows?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/> </p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>Yes: Move furniture or relocate cords to prevent cord damage.</p>	<p> Pinching cords can cause damage to insulation or break wire strands, creating a fire or shock hazard.</p>

Home Fire Safety Checklist (Continued)

Cords (Continued)

21 Are cords located under carpets or rugs?

YES ☐

NO ☐

Yes: Move cords or carpets so the cords are not covered.

! Cords can overheat if air cannot flow around them, creating a fire hazard.

Electrical Panel

22 Are fuses or circuit breakers the correct size for the circuits?

YES ☐

NO ☐

No or I Don't Know: Have a licensed electrician determine the correct sizes and install them.

! The wrong size fuse or circuit breaker can cause the wiring to overheat, creating a fire hazard.

23 Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)?

YES ☐

NO ☐

No: Consider having a licensed electrician replace the standard circuit breakers with AFCIs.

! AFCIs are advanced circuit breakers that provide enhanced protection from electrical fires.

24 If AFCIs are installed, do you test them every month?

YES ☐

NO ☐

No: Use the TEST button to test AFCIs every month. Have a licensed electrician replace defective AFCIs.

! AFCIs can stop working without showing signs of failure, so regular testing is necessary to ensure they are working properly.

Heating Equipment

25 Is your heating equipment located at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn?

YES ☐







NO ☐

No: Keep all combustible material, such as curtains, bedding, and newspapers, at least three feet from heating equipment, such as space heaters and the fireplace.

! Nearby combustible materials can be ignited and start a fire.

Home Fire Safety Checklist (Continued)

Heating Equipment (Continued)

<p>26 Are space heaters placed in a safe location?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	<p>No or I Don't Know:</p> <p>Space heaters should be placed on a flat, level surface that is not in a doorway or high traffic area, but never on top of furniture.</p>	<p></p> <p>Space heaters can pose a tripping hazard and can also cause a fire if bumped or knocked over.</p>
<p>27 Did you have your heating equipment inspected this year?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	<p>No or I Don't Know:</p> <p>Heating equipment should be professionally inspected and cleaned annually.</p>	<p></p> <p>Properly maintained heating systems reduce the risk of fire and carbon monoxide hazards.</p>
<p>28 Has your fireplace chimney been professionally inspected and cleaned recently?</p> <p>YES <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NO <input type="checkbox"/> </p>	<p>No or I Don't Know:</p> <p>Arrange to have your chimney professionally inspected and cleaned at least once a year.</p>	<p></p> <p>A clogged chimney can cause poisonous carbon monoxide to enter the home. Creosote buildup can also ignite and result in a fire.</p>