



Home Fire Prevention Checklist

It's important to be proactive in preventing home fires. **Print out this checklist** and conduct a walk-through to ensure each area of your home is free of potential fire hazards.

General:

- Every level of the home has a working smoke detector less than 10 years old
- Every level of the home has a working carbon monoxide alarm less than 7 years old
- Carbon monoxide alarms and smoke detectors are tested monthly
- There is a working fire extinguisher on every floor that everyone knows how to use
- Flammable items are at least three feet away from any heat sources (e.g., fireplaces, space heaters)
- Lightbulbs meet recommended wattage of all fixtures
- Closet lights are not exposed
- Incandescent lights are not exposed, do not have a shade, and are 12 inches away from combustibles
- Electric cords don't run under carpets and are not pressed against a wall or bed
- All cords are in good condition
- Outlets do not feel warm when you touch them
- Extension cords and outlets are not overloaded
- Furniture meets updated recommendations for fire-resistant upholstery
- Fireplaces have screens, surrounding areas are clear of debris, and flue is clear of obstructions
- Candles are sturdy, can't be tipped over, and are kept far from flammable objects and inaccessible to children or pets
- All appliances are certified, in good condition, and have not been recalled

Bedrooms:

- Working smoke detectors are placed inside and outside every bedroom or sleeping area and are tested monthly to ensure they are working properly
- Mattresses were not made before 1974
- All bedrooms above the second floor have an escape ladder that everyone knows how to use
- There are at least two ways to exit every bedroom in the event of a fire

Laundry Room:

- There is no lint build-up inside the dryer or its exhaust duct, and the area behind the dryer is lint-free, and check regularly
- Foil or plastic accordion-type ducting material has been replaced with rigid or semi-rigid metal duct

Chimneys:

- There are no gaps around the chimney that allow you to see the floor below
- Chimney is cleaned annually
- Chimney has fire-stop of gypsum board or fire-code gypsum board at each floor penetration
- Metal vent areas around chimney are blocked by sheet metal

Kitchen:

- Cooking surfaces are clean of grease and food build-up regularly
- The kitchen has a working fire extinguisher that everyone knows how to use
- Gas appliance vents are blocked by sheet metal
- Utensils and flammable objects are stored away from hot surfaces
- Snacks and treats (for kids or pets) are not stored above the stove
- All areas are clear of accumulated junk that can facilitate fire
- Areas around furnaces, oil burners, wood stoves, and other heat-generating equipment are clear of debris, combustible materials, and rags
- Trash is not stored in the basement or garage
- Burner-access doors on the water heater are closed to prevent flame roll-out
- Breaker panel hasn't been recalled nor recommended for replacement
- Breaker wires are not loose
- No signs of erosion or decay on wire insulators
- Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) have been added for protection from electrical wiring faults, especially in older homes. **WARNING:** If you're not an electrician, call one. Don't try to fix this yourself.
- Oily rags are in air-tight containers and away from heat sources
- Gasoline is stored away from ignition sources like heat and sparks and in containers with approved labels.
- Doors leading from the garage to the house is solid, has a threshold to block fire from traveling to the house, and weather stripping to prevent carbon monoxide fumes from passing through
- There is at least a three-inch gap between fiberglass insulation and lighting fixtures

Note any issues that need to be addressed below and create a plan:

More Fire Safety & Prevention Resources:

In case the worst happens, you must have a plan. Check out our guide to creating a plan [here](#).

For more information on home fire safety and prevention, check out our full resource guide at [SafeWise.com](#)

Source: [SafeWise.com](#), Fire Safety Guide