



Seattle Fire Department—Fire Prevention Division

Prepare your family and home to be fire safe!

Home Fire Safety

Use these tips and checklist to help ensure you, your family and your home are fire safe.



Home Fire Escape Plan

- Make a plan for every room and every member of your home.
- Every room should have two ways out, including windows.
- Ensure windows used for escaping can be opened easily. Security bars for bedrooms must have quick release devices and be operable by everyone in the household.
- Have a meeting place outside, away from the home where you will call 911.

Tips for a safe escape

- Discuss and practice the escape plan with all family members and caretakers—during the day and at night.
- If you see smoke, try another way out. If you can't avoid it, crawl low and get out quickly.
- Stay out and do not go back inside. Possessions can be replaced, you can not.



Is your home fire safe?

Items not checked may put you at higher risk from fire.

Heating

- Baseboard heaters are at least 12 inches from curtains and furniture.
- Chimneys and heating systems inspected, cleaned and repaired each year.
- Portable heaters are at least three feet from bedding and furniture; plugged directly into the wall, and turned off when you leave the room or go to bed.
- Every fireplace is equipped with a sturdy metal screen.

Electrical

- Use as few cord adapters and extension cords as possible. Instead use a power strip that has a surge protector.
- Extension cords are only used for temporary use; are not tacked to walls, run under rugs or through doorways.
- Small appliances, like the toaster, are unplugged when not in use.
- Appliances have a seal of approval from independent testing lab.

Housekeeping

- Matches and lighters are kept out of children's reach in a secure place.
- Paint, varnish, and other flammables are stored in sturdy metal containers and in a cool place.
- Ashes from fireplaces and barbecues are only disposed of in metal containers.
- Candles are only lit when someone is able to keep an eye on them, and when placed in a sturdy holder away from things that can burn.

Kitchen

- Cooking is never left unattended and the stove is clear of items that can catch fire. In the event of a pan fire, cover it with a lid or cookie sheet and turn off the heat.
- The oven is never used to heat the home.

Smoke and Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms

- Smoke and CO alarms are installed on a ceiling or high on the wall inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home.
- Alarms are tested once a month and batteries are changed once a year.
- If the smoke or CO alarm sounds, get out and call 911.



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