

Keeping your family safe from fire

- Do you have smoke alarms installed on every level of your home and in each sleeping area?
- Do your smoke alarms work? (Do you test them once a month and replace batteries at least once a year? Consider installing smoke alarms with a "long-life" (10-year) battery. These alarms must also be tested once a month.)
- Does everyone in your home know the sound of your smoke alarms?
- Do you have alarms with flashing lights for people who are deaf or hard of hearing?
- Are any smoke alarms in your home more than 10 years old? (If so, replace them.)
- Does your family have a home fire escape plan, and do you practice it every six months?
- Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system in your home. Sprinklers can contain or put out a fire in less time than it takes the fire department to arrive.



Kitchen tips

- Does an adult stay in the kitchen when something's cooking on the stove?
- Is your stovetop clean — no grease, no spills, no clutter?
- When you cook, do you turn pot handles in toward the back of the stove?



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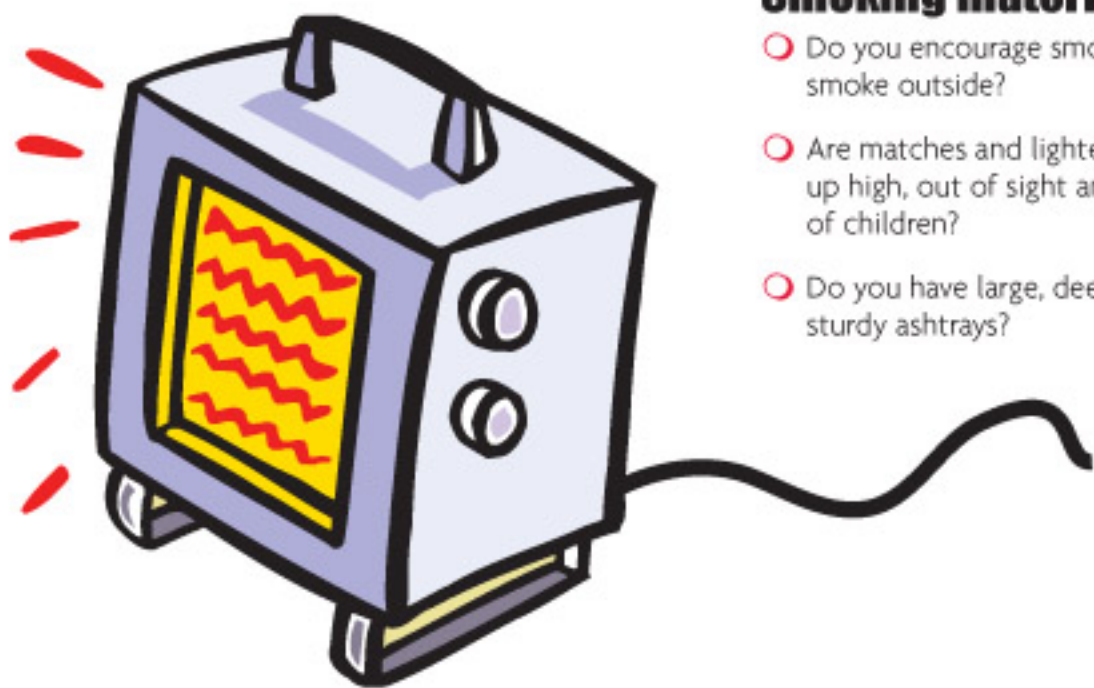
Home Fire Prevention Checklist



Home Fire Prevention Checklist

Safe and warm

- Are space heaters at least 3 feet away from walls, sofas, and anything else that can burn?
- Has your chimney been inspected or cleaned in the past 12 months?
- If you have a fireplace, does it have a sturdy screen to catch sparks?
- Has your heating system been professionally inspected or serviced in the past 12 months?



Smoking materials

- Do you encourage smokers to smoke outside?
- Are matches and lighters locked up high, out of sight and reach of children?
- Do you have large, deep, sturdy ashtrays?



Hazardous materials

- Are paints, gasoline, and other flammable liquids stored away from flames and sparks?
- Is gasoline stored outside the home in a separate shed or garage?
- Is your storage area clean — no oily rags, used paint, or varnish rags?

House wiring

- Do the tripping points of your fuses or breakers match the capacity of the circuits they protect?
(Have them inspected professionally.)
- Are bathroom and kitchen wall outlets protected by ground-fault circuit-interrupters (GFCIs)?
- Does your local safety code require the use of arc-fault circuit-interrupters (AFCIs), which detect abnormal arcing in a circuit?

