



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

