

# Home Safety Checklist



## Bedrooms, Bathrooms & Living Areas

- All doors and windows needed for fire escape open easily from inside.
- Window blind cords are cut short or secured to prevent strangulation.
- If young children are present, window screens and/or other devices are in place to prevent falls.
- Window security bars are only used if they have a quick release feature accessed from inside.
- A list of important phone numbers and medications is next to the phone.
- A working flashlight is present in each bedroom.
- Lamp and light fixtures use bulbs at or below maximum wattage prescribed by the manufacturer.
- Portable space heaters are 3 feet from anything that could burn, and are unplugged when not in use.
- Baseboard heaters are not touching anything that could burn.
- Electrical outlets, cords and multi-plug adaptors are checked for cracks, heat and discoloring.
- Electrical sockets are not overloaded.
- If children are present, electrical outlets have child proof covers.
- Matches and lighters are stored out of children's reach.
- All medicines and cosmetics are kept out of reach of children.
- Old or outdated medicine has been disposed of properly.
- If bathroom doors lock, an extra bathroom key is handy.
- All cleaning products and solvents are in their original containers and inaccessible to children.
- Smoking in bed, or when drowsy is prohibited.
- Firearms and ammunition are securely stored where a child cannot access them.
- Smoke alarms are located on all floors and near and/or in all sleeping areas.
- You have smoke alarms with both photoelectric and ionization sensors.
- Photoelectric sensor smoke alarms are placed near potential false alarm areas such as kitchens.
- Smoke alarms have been tested, cleaned/vacuumed recently.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed once a year. Smoke alarms are replaced every 10 years.
- Carbon Monoxide alarms are installed in homes with fuel-burning appliances.
- All family members know the fire escape plan and practices home fire drills at least once a year.
- All family members sleep with their doors closed to keep out smoke.
- All family members know to crawl low under smoke.
- Candles are kept in thick glass, metal or ceramic containers and at least one foot from anything that could burn.
- After entertaining, furniture has been checked for smoldering cigarette ashes.
- The fireplace has a screen or glass cover in front of it.
- Flues and chimneys are serviced periodically by a licensed chimney sweep.
- Fireplace and cigarette ashes are placed in metal containers with water and only disposed of when cold.
- Objects that could catch fire are placed away from the fireplace.
- If the home has small children, safety latches are installed on drawers, cupboards, and medicine cabinet.

- If smokers are present, large, sturdy ashtrays are placed around the home.
- Each area has two acceptable means of fire escape.

## **Kitchen**

- Appliance cords are kept on the counter to prevent them from being pulled down by a child.
- Electrical sockets are not overloaded with appliance cords.
- Each appliance functions properly and is kept away from water sources.
- Electrical cords are in good repair and not cracked, frayed, or worn.
- Small appliances, especially coffee pots and toasters are unplugged when not in use.
- The stove is clean of grease and oil.
- A 5 lb. or greater size fire extinguisher (Class ABC) is mounted near the kitchen.
- Cleaning products and other chemicals are stored out of the reach of young children, away from food storage areas, and in their original containers.
- Family members know how to cool a minor burn with water.
- The kitchen hood vent is clean and free of grease buildup.
- Residents have been taught to “put a lid on grease fires.”

## **Storage and Work Areas**

- The water heater is set at or below 120 degrees (F).
- The furnace or heating unit has been checked once each year to ensure proper functioning.
- The fuse box has the correct fuse or circuit breaker for each circuit, and each breaker is labeled.
- Oily rags with paints, oil, varnish, or polish are kept and disposed of in a covered metal can. These rags are never dried in a clothes dryer, so as not to start a fire.
- Combustible liquids such as paint, varnish, paint thinner, and turpentine are kept in tight containers away from heat sources.
- Gasoline is stored in approved safety cans.
- All chemicals and paints are kept in their original containers.
- A fire extinguisher (Class ABC, minimum of 5 lb.) is mounted near the storage or work area.
- Liquid fueled space heaters are properly vented and correct fuel is used, per manufacturer specifications.
- The clothes dryer lint trap is cleaned after each use, and dryer vent ducting to outside is cleaned annually or more often if needed.
- There is adequate clearance between furnace and flue and any combustible material.

## **Outside the Home**

- Wood shingle roofs have been treated with a fire retardant.
- Gutters are kept clear of leaf and needle buildup.
- The chimney has a spark arrestor on the roof and is cleaned annually by a certified chimney sweep.
- Weeds and brush are cleared at least 10 feet away from the house and liquid gas tanks.
- House numbers are visible from the street.
- The nearest fire hydrant is free from obstructions, grass, or brush.