

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECK LIST



A residential fire occurs every half hour in Ohio. How safe is your home from fire? To determine the safety of your home from fire hazards, study these questions with your family. Every "yes" answer indicates a positive fire safety situation. However, every "no" answer points to a fire hazard that needs to be corrected.

Matches/lighters and Careless Smoking Hazards

Yes No

- Do you keep matches and lighters away from sources of heat? Yes No
- Do you make sure matches and smoking materials are out before disposing of them? Yes No
- Do you have plenty of large, noncombustible ash trays in every room? Yes No
- Is "No Smoking in Bed" a rule in your home? Yes No
- Do you use ash trays outside (to avoid mulch fires?) Yes No

Electrical Hazards

- Do you have qualified electricians install or extend your wiring? Yes No
- When you buy electrical equipment and appliances, do you always look for the UL label of Underwriters' Laboratories, Inc.? Yes No
- Are there enough electrical outlets in every room to avoid the need for multiple attachment plugs and long extension cords? Yes No
- Are there proper heat controls on your electrical iron and all electrical appliances used for cooking? Yes No
- Do you have adequate circuit breaker-fuses for the equipment used in your home? Yes No
- Are all extension cords of the right size, in the open and not under rugs or through partitions or openings and are they for temporary use only? Yes No
- Is there adequate wiring in all rooms for today's electronics? Yes No

Heating and Cooking Hazards

- If you use oil heat or gas heat, is the equipment listed by the proper laboratories such as UL or the American Gas Association? Yes No
- Before the heating season begins, do you have your heating system inspected and serviced? Yes No

Heating and Cooking Hazards (continued)

Yes No

- If you have a wood burning stove, has it been installed properly according to manufacturers instructions? Yes No
- Do you burn seasoned wood and is it stored in the proper place? Yes No
- Are all vent connectors and flue pipes that pass through attics, floors, ceilings and walls properly installed? Yes No
- Do you clean your chimney at least once a year? (More often if it is used more regularly) Yes No
- Is your kitchen stove, including the oven and the broiler, kept clean of grease? Yes No
- Do all portable heaters in your home bear the label of Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) or some other recognized safety testing agency? Yes No
- If you use a portable heater, is it placed well away from any and all combustible materials? Yes No
- Do you always refill the fuel tank of your kerosene heater outdoors? Yes No
- Since portable kerosene heaters use up oxygen when they burn, do you always have adequate ventilation? Yes No
- Do you always turn off the portable heater when you go to bed? Yes No
- Do you make sure that the fuel is not contaminated prior to using it in your kerosene heater? Yes No
- If using kerosene heaters, do you have working carbon monoxide detectors outside of each sleeping area? Yes No
- Is your inside basement door at the head of the stairs properly fitted and kept closed at night? Yes No
- Has everyone in the family been warned never to use any flammable liquids to start a fire in the stove, fireplace or furnace? Yes No
- Is every fireplace equipped with a sturdy metal fire screen? Yes No

Housekeeping Hazards

Yes No

- Do you keep your basement, closets and attic clear of rags, papers and other combustible materials?
- If you store paint, varnish, and other items, do you keep the containers tightly closed?
- Has everyone in your family been warned never to use gasoline or other flammable liquids for cleaning clothes, furnishings or floors?
- Do you clean the lint filter after every use of the dryer?
- Do you vacuum and dust your smoke detector?

Yard and Garage Hazards

- Do you keep your yard cleaned of leaves, debris and combustible rubbish?
- If you keep gasoline for use in a power mower or out-board motor, is it stored in a strong, clearly labeled red gasoline safety-type can?
- If your garage is attached to the house, is it separated by a fire-retardant door which is kept closed?
- If you store kerosene, is it placed in an approved blue and white container that is clearly labeled kerosene?

Smoke Detectors

- Do you have a smoke detector installed on every level of your home and in sleeping areas?
- Do you test your detector weekly to ensure that it is in proper working order?
- Do you change the batteries twice a year at the time change?
- Have you replaced your smoke detector if it is 10 years old or older?

Especially for Parents

Yes No

- Do you extinguish candles when you leave the area?
- Do you use noncombustible containers to set candles on?
- Do you keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children?
- Are you careful never to leave children alone in a room with a portable heater or wood stove?
- Do you leave a responsible person with your children when you go out, even for a little while?
- When you employ babysitters, do you instruct them carefully on what to do in case of a fire?

- Do your children know their address?
- IMPORTANT:** A child learns by example as well as by instruction. In regard to fire safety, do you always set a good example?

In Case of Fire

- Do you know the telephone number of your fire department or how to use 911?
- Do you know how to turn in a fire alarm?
- Is there an extinguisher easily accessible in your kitchen?
- Do you have an escape plan with at least two ways out of every room in your home?
- Have you practiced that escape plan by holding fire drills in your home?
- Have you included caregivers in your drills?
- Do you have a central meeting place?

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