

FIRE SAFETY IN THE HOME



PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM FIRE



Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service



FIRE SAFETY THE ESSENTIALS

Too busy to think about fire safety? Ask anyone who has experienced a house fire if fire safety is a waste of time and they'll tell a different story.

KEEP YOUR HOME AND FAMILY SAFE FROM FIRE

Read this leaflet to remind yourself of the fire safety basics.

REAL LIFE EXCUSES KILL

On 21 August, there was a fire in the home of the Graham family who were asleep at the time. Anne and Michael Graham got out alive. Their two children, Amy (age three) and Josh (age five) sadly weren't so lucky. The Graham family had fitted smoke alarms in the downstairs and upstairs landings, but they didn't check the batteries.



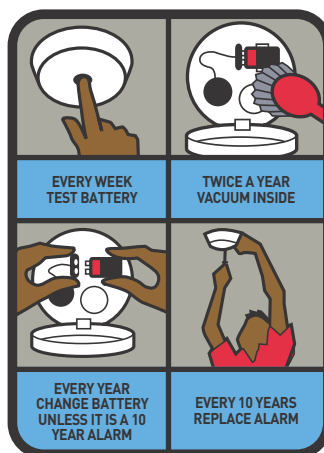
**HAVE YOU TESTED
YOUR SMOKE ALARM
BATTERIES RECENTLY?**



SMOKE ALARMS

A smoke alarm is a warning device that detects smoke at the earliest stages of a fire. This gives you vital extra minutes to escape.

- Smoke alarms cost as little as £5 and can be bought in supermarkets or high street stores.
- If you are buying a smoke alarm consider getting a 10 year alarm which may be more expensive initially but will not require frequent battery changes.
- Fit a smoke alarm on every level of your home, ideally on the hallway or landing ceilings. Don't put a smoke alarm in the kitchen where it can be set off accidentally.
- You can buy smoke alarms fitted with a 'hush button' so you can silence the alarm if it goes off by mistake.
- Always test the batteries once a week.

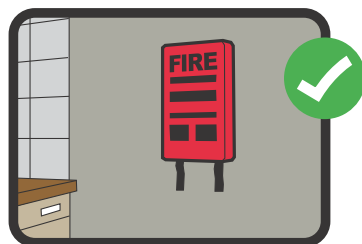


**IT'S VITAL TO CHECK YOUR
SMOKE ALARMS.**

FIRE SAFETY

KITCHEN

- Keep electrical leads and items that can catch fire easily, such as tea towels, oven gloves and loose clothing, away from the cooker and toaster.
- Keep the oven, toaster, hob and grill clean. A build-up of crumbs, fat and grease can easily catch fire.
- Keep electrical leads and appliances far away from water.
- Why not keep a fire blanket in the kitchen?
You can use it to wrap around someone whose clothes have caught fire or to smother a small fire.
- If you deep-fry food, dry it before you put it in the hot oil. If the oil starts to smoke, turn off the heat and leave the pan to cool.
- Never fill chip pans more than one-third full of oil.
- Don't use matches or lighters to light gas cookers. Spark devices are safer.
- Make sure saucepan handles don't stick out from the hob.



**DON'T LEAVE COOKING
UNATTENDED. FIRE STARTS WHEN
YOUR ATTENTION STOPS.**

WHAT IF A PAN CATCHES FIRE?

- Don't take risks.
- Turn off the heat if it's safe to do so.
Don't move the pan.
- Never throw water over the pan.
- Get everyone out of your home and call the
Fire & Rescue Service.



IF THERE'S A FIRE...

**GET OUT,
STAY OUT
& CALL:**

999



**DON'T TAKE RISKS
THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS
A SAFE FIRE. IT'S BETTER FOR
YOU TO PREVENT FIRE THAN
TO FIGHT IT.**

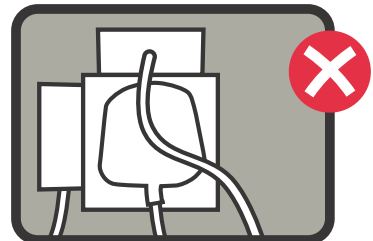
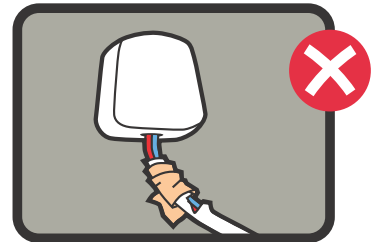
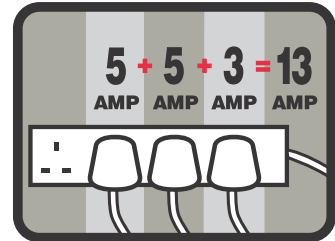
**TACKLING FIRE IS A JOB BEST
LEFT TO FIREFIGHTERS.**

FIRE SAFETY

ELECTRICS

PLUGS AND CABLES

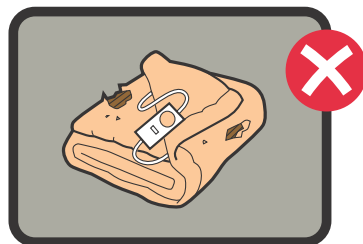
- Check the maximum amps that the fuse in the plug can handle.
- If you have to use an adaptor, use one which has a fuse and keep the total output to no more than 13 amps. Watch out! A single kettle uses 13 amps alone.
- Don't put cables under carpets or mats.
- Check for signs of loose wiring and faulty plugs or sockets such as scorch marks or flickering lights.
- Replace any worn or taped-up cables and leads.
- Don't overload sockets – use one plug in each socket.



**UNPLUG ELECTRICAL
APPLIANCES IF YOU ARE
NOT USING THEM.**

ELECTRIC BLANKETS

- Don't leave blankets folded. Store them flat or rolled up to protect the internal wiring.
- Only leave a blanket switched on all night if it has thermostatic controls for safe all-night use. Otherwise, unplug it before you get into bed.



PORTABLE HEATERS

- Always position heaters so they are backed up against a wall facing into the room. If possible, secure them to the wall to stop them falling over.
- Don't place heaters near curtains or furnishings and never use them for drying clothes.



LIGHTS

- Don't position lights and bulbs near curtains and other fabrics.



**CHECK THAT YOUR
FURNITURE HAS THE
FIRE-RESISTANT LABEL.**



FIRE SAFETY

CIGARETTES

Many accidental fire deaths in Northern Ireland are caused by careless disposal of smoking materials.

- Take extra care smoking if you're drowsy, taking prescription drugs or if you have been drinking. It's too easy to fall asleep and not notice that a cigarette is still burning.
- Don't smoke in bed. It's too easy to fall asleep and set bedding on fire.
- Always use proper ashtrays.
- Make sure that when you put out a cigarette, it is really out.
- Take responsibility and keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.



**IT'S HOTTER THAN YOU THINK
– CIGARETTES CAN BURN AT
TEMPERATURES OF OVER 700°C.**

FIRE SAFETY

CANDLES

Treat lighted candles as you would any other flame.

- Don't leave them unattended.
- Put them out completely at night.
- Keep candles away from anything that can catch fire like furnishings, fabrics, curtains and so on.
- Candles and tea lights can melt plastic surfaces like the tops of televisions and bath tubs. Make sure you always place them on a heat resistant surface.



**IT ONLY TAKES A MOMENT'S
DISTRACTION FOR A FIRE TO
START – KEEP CANDLES
OUT OF REACH OF
CHILDREN AND PETS.**

FIRE SAFETY

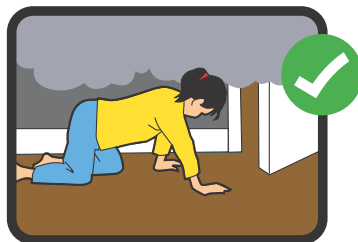
BE PREPARED

PLAN AHEAD

- Make sure all your family know what to do in a fire and how to escape safely.
- Plan your escape routes and keep your exits clear.
- Keep door and window keys handy.
- Close all doors. By shutting doors you can keep your route free from fire. This is particularly important in homes where you would not be able to escape from a window, for example if you live in a tall house (3 storeys and above) or a high-rise flat.

WHAT TO DO IF A FIRE STARTS

- If there is smoke, keep low where the air is clearer.
- Try and keep calm. Get everyone out as quickly as possible – don't waste time investigating or rescuing valuables.



IF YOUR CLOTHES CATCH FIRE...

- Don't run around.
- Lie down and roll around.
- Smother the flames with a heavy material, like a coat, blanket or a fire blanket if there is one near.

STOP!



DROP!

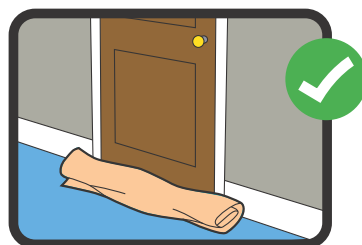


ROLL!



IF ESCAPE ROUTES ARE BLOCKED...

- If you can't open the window – break the glass in the bottom corner. Make jagged edges safe with a towel or blanket.
- If you're on the ground or first floor go out of a window. Use bedding to cushion your fall and lower yourself. Don't jump!
- If you can't get out, get everyone into one room, preferably with a window and a phone. Put bedding round the door to block smoke and call 999.
- If you can get out, call 999 as soon as you are clear of the building. Use a mobile or a neighbour's phone.



**DON'T GO BACK INSIDE
FOR ANY REASON. WAIT
OUTSIDE FOR THE FIRE
& RESCUE SERVICE.**



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**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

