



# NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

## Home Fire Safety Check - Self Check List

Ask yourself	What to do	Links to more advice
<b>Kitchen – 60% of fires start in the kitchen!</b>		
Are your oven and grill clean?	If NO: Give them a really good clean. A build-up of grease and spills can easily catch fire.	<a href="#">Cooking</a>
Do you fry food?	If YES: Hot oil ignites easily, keep a close eye on your cooking. Use a thermostatic electric deep fat fryer instead of a chip pan. Know what to do if you have a cooking fire - turn off the heat if you can and GET OUT, STAY OUT, CALL 999.	<a href="#">Cooking</a>
Do you turn pan handles so they don't stick out over the edge of the worktop and keep them clear of other hotplates?	If NO: get into the habit of doing this when you cook to avoid accidents involving spills, burns and scalds.	<a href="#">Cooking</a>
Are tea towels and cloths kept clear of the cooker?	If NO: Move them. If left on or above appliances they can catch fire.	<a href="#">Cooking</a>
Are kettles and leads away from hotplates and children?	If NO: Move them. These can cause injuries and fires if they melt or are pulled.	<a href="#">Cooking</a>
Are all flexes and cables in good condition?	If NO: Get them replaced. Worn wires can cause fires or an electric shock, it isn't worth the risk.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Are plugs and sockets used correctly and not overloaded?	If NO: Check the correct fuse is used. Avoid block adaptors, instead use trailing adaptors and don't exceed 13 amps in total.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Are toasters used under cupboards, shelves or near kitchen rolls or curtains?	If YES: Move the toaster to a new home. If you can't, move it forward while you use it and push it back afterwards. The heat can scorch units and eventually over time this will become more likely to ignite and cause a fire. Check for scorch marks to see if this is already happening.	<a href="#">Fire avoidance at home</a>
Do you have a microwave?	If YES: Don't store things on top to make sure the air can flow around it. Do not put metal inside. Take care with microwaveable wheat bags as they can overheat quickly.	
Are floors free of things that you could trip or slip on?	If NO: Replace worn or damaged floor coverings, remove trip hazards. People can slip on liquids or loose mats on shiny floors.	
Is there a door and does it fully close into the frame?	If NO: Consider replacing or fitting a new door. Shutting doors at night will help to contain a fire and the smoke that comes with it. If you discover a fire during the daytime closing a well fitted door behind you will give you more time to escape and could help to limit the damage to your home.	
<b>Living and dining room</b>		
Are all flexes and cables in good condition?	If NO: Get them replaced. Worn wires can cause fires and electric shocks.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Are plugs and sockets used correctly and not overloaded?	If NO: Check the correct fuse is used. Avoid block adaptors, instead use trailing adaptors and don't exceed 13 amps in total.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Do cables run under carpets or floor coverings?	If YES: Check the condition of cables and find a way to rearrange them. Cables may wear if walked on and go on to cause fires and electric shocks. Consult a qualified electrician if you need advice or have any doubt.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>



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Are all unused electrical appliances unplugged especially last thing at night?	If NO: Include this in your bedtime routine to reduce the chance of an electrical fire starting. This will also save you money, as appliances on standby can still use up to 66% of the power they use when switched on!!	<a href="#">Bedtime routine</a>
Do you have an open fire, woodburning stove or portable gas heater?	If YES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get chimneys swept by a chimney sweep before you use them in the winter and again after the cold season.</li> <li>• Use a suitable fireguard especially if you leave the room or may easily fall asleep.</li> <li>• Keep furniture and other combustibles at least 1 metre from fires and heaters and check they do not get hot.</li> <li>• Make sure fires are out or guarded, and there are no sparks or embers in the hearth or on floor coverings before you go out. Also check this every night as part of your bedtime routine.</li> <li>• Relocate mirrors from above fireplaces and heaters with open flames. Clothing and hairspray etc can catch fire when people are standing close to the mirror.</li> <li>• Don't empty ashes into plastic bins.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Bedtime routine</a>
Do you use a portable heater?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Get portable heaters checked regularly by a qualified person.</li> <li>• Hoses and connections on gas heaters need checking regularly to ensure they are in good condition and not loose.</li> <li>• LPG heaters produce water vapour as well as heat so can cause damp and condensation. Open windows regularly to ensure ventilation.</li> <li>• Don't sit too close to a portable heater or hang laundry directly on it.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Are floor coverings loose or raised and may cause people to trip or slip?	If YES: These can cause slips, trips and falls. Replace, repair or remove loose or dangerous floor coverings and ensure they do not slip easily on wet or shiny floors.	
Do you use candles, burners, joss sticks or lanterns?	If YES: They should be stable and in approved holders not placed on plastic or flammable surfaces, and away from curtains or other flammable items. Put them out when you leave the room and before you go to sleep. Use torches for emergency lighting.	<a href="#">Candles</a>
Does anyone smoke?	If YES: Smoking is the biggest cause of fire death in UK homes. Use ashtrays carefully and empty them into non-combustible containers (not plastic bins).	<a href="#">Smoking</a>
Is there a door and does it fully close into the frame?	If NO: Consider replacing or fitting a new door. Shutting doors at night will help to contain a fire and the smoke that comes with it. If you discover a fire during the daytime closing a well fitted door behind you will give you more time to escape and could help to limit the damage to your home.	
<b>Hallways, stairs and landings</b>		
Are there working smoke alarms on each floor?	If NO: Remember you are less likely to die in a fire if you have a working smoke alarm on every floor of your home. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoke alarms are available in most DIY stores and supermarkets.</li> <li>• Test them at least once every month.</li> <li>• Replace alarms if over 10 years old.</li> <li>• Vacuum them every 6 months to keep them free from dust.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Alarms</a>



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Are stairs and/or floor coverings loose or raised, or could they cause people to trip or slip?	If YES: These can cause slips, trips and falls and prevent escape in case of fire. Replace, repair or remove loose or dangerous floor coverings and ensure they do not slip easily on shiny floors.	
Are the stairs, hallways and exit routes free of obstructions?	If NO: Move clutter and obstructions such as bicycles, toys or electrical cables out of the way as they can prevent or slow your escape in a fire. Check your main escape route is clear as part of your bedtime routine.	<a href="#">Bedtime routine</a>
Are plugs and sockets used correctly and not overloaded?	If NO: Check the correct fuse is used. Avoid block adaptors, instead use trailing adaptors and don't exceed 13 amps in total.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
<b>Bedrooms</b>		
Does anyone smoke in bed?	If YES: <b>Please be aware that smoking is the biggest cause of fire deaths in UK homes. A fire caused by smoking in bed is very difficult to escape from. Our advice is to smoke before you get into bed, and preferably outside to keep your home smoke free. If someone in your household smokes and spends most of their time in bed due to illness or disability please contact us on (01604) 797000 to arrange a Home Fire Safety Check so that we can give you additional advice.</b>	<a href="#">Home fire safety checks</a>
Does anyone use an electric blanket?	If YES: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check it regularly to ensure it is in good condition.</li> <li>• Check that you are following the manufacturer's instructions.</li> <li>• Use only those with the British Standard kite mark or EU standard.</li> <li>• Switch blankets off before getting into bed.</li> <li>• Have them tested regularly as per the instructions.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Are all flexes and cables in good condition?	If NO: Get them replaced. Worn wires can cause electric shocks and/or fires.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Are plugs and sockets used correctly and not overloaded?	If NO: Check the correct fuse is used. Avoid block adaptors, instead use trailing adaptors and don't exceed 13 amps in total.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Do cables run under carpets or floor coverings?	If YES: Cable may wear and cause fires and/or electrical shock. Check the condition of cables and reroute them. Consult a qualified electrician if you have any doubt.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Are all unused electrical appliances unplugged, especially last thing at night?	If NO: Include this in your bedtime routine. It will also save you money, as appliances on standby can use up to 66% of the power they use when turned on.	<a href="#">Bedtime routine</a>
Do you use electric hair straighteners or hair dryers?	If YES: Never leave them on beds or combustible surfaces if they are plugged in or are still hot from use. Ensure cables are not twisted, coiled or damaged and plugs are correctly wired.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Are floor coverings loose or raised, or could they cause people to trip or slip?	If YES: These can cause slips, trips and falls. Replace, repair or remove loose or dangerous floor coverings and ensure they do not slip easily on wet or shiny floors.	
Are there aerosols placed on heaters or in the window?	If YES: Many aerosols contain flammable gases and can explode if heated by radiators, heaters or sunlight.	
Do you have a phone or other means of calling 999 in the bedroom?	If NO: Consider plugging a cordless or mobile phone in your bedroom. This will help you to quickly call 999 if there is a fire in your home at night and your escape is blocked.	<a href="#">Bedtime routine</a>



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Is there a door and does it fully close into the frame?	If NO: A well fitted door will give you more time to escape if it is closed and you have a working smoke detector to warn you.	
<b>Bathroom</b>		
Are there aerosols placed on heaters or in the window?	If YES: Many aerosols contain flammable gases and can be heated by radiators, heaters or sunlight and explode.	
Are electrics operated by pull cord or sensor switches?	If NO: Be aware operating electrical switches with wet hands can cause an electric shock.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Are portable electrical appliances used in the bathroom?	If YES: Be aware that portable electric appliances such as heaters, hairdryers or straighteners can come into contact with water and cause electric shock.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Are floor coverings loose or raised or could they cause people to trip or slip?	If YES: These can cause slips, trips and falls. Replace, repair or remove loose or dangerous floor coverings and ensure they do not slip easily on wet or shiny floors.	
Does anyone use candles or burners in the bathroom?	If YES: Ensure these are placed in suitable holders and not on plastic or flammable surfaces such as a plastic bath as these can melt through and cause fire or flood.	<a href="#">Candles</a>
<b>Airing cupboard</b>		
Is this empty of aerosols and flammable liquids? Are combustibles such as towels kept away from electrics?	If NO: Move these items to a safer place. Aerosols can explode in heat, flammable liquids can expand and leak coming into contact with electrics. Combustibles such as towels and clothing, especially if wet, can catch fire or cause electric shock near electrics.	
Are all electric items and cables in good condition?	If NO: Have them replaced, or if unsure have them checked by a qualified electrician.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Do you have a gas boiler?	If YES: Ensure it is serviced once a year and that you have a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm nearby.	<a href="#">Alarms</a>
<b>Loft</b>		
Are there storage materials that could catch fire?	If YES: Keep storage to a minimum, away from electrics, chimney breasts and other things that may get hot.	
Are the electrics in good order and safe from rodents?	If NO: Consult a qualified electrician.	<a href="#">Electrical appliances</a>
Is the loft separated from adjoining properties by a solid wall with no holes?	If NO: Consult an architect or local building control for further advice. Open loft spaces between houses can aid the spread of fire.	
<b>Garages, sheds and outdoor storage</b>		
Are all dangerous materials stored safely and correctly?	If NO: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We recommend storage of no more than 15 litres of petrol with no more than 2 x 5 litre plastic fuel cans.</li> <li>Chemicals used in the garden, garage or workshop need to be used and stored with great care; store them in a safe place where children can't see or reach them, and keep them in their original containers, clearly labelled.</li> </ul>	
Are there clear routes out of the area?	If NO: Ensure there is a safe, easy route out of garages and storage areas in case of fire.	<a href="#">Fire escape plans</a>
If the garage has a door directly into the house is it a fire door that closes fully onto the door frame?	If NO: This must be a correctly installed fire door to prevent the spread of fire from a higher risk area such as a garage. It should be kept closed and not wedged open.	



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Escape plan		
Do you have an emergency plan?	<p>If NO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan how you and your family would escape from your home if a fire occurred.</li> <li>• Make sure everyone in the house knows what to do.</li> <li>• Practice the escape plan to ensure that the plan works and that everyone is clear on what to do.</li> <li>• Consider planning for what you would do in other emergencies such as flooding.</li> </ul> <p>In case of fire: GET OUT, STAY OUT, CALL 999.</p>	<a href="#">Fire escape plans</a>
Do you know how you would escape if there was a fire in your home?	<p>If NO: Make a fire plan. Know your quickest and easiest exit route. This is usually the normal route out of your home. Make sure keys to doors are nearby to save time and practise this plan with everyone in the home.</p>	<a href="#">Fire escape plans</a>
Do you know what you would do if you were trapped in your bedroom by fire or smoke?	<p>If NO: Make a plan B which includes things like: identifying a safe room you could use as an urgent escape option. Stay low in smoke, shut the door to your safe room to keep the smoke and fire out. Make sure window keys are handy as well as a mobile or cordless phone so that you can call for help.</p>	<a href="#">Fire escape plans</a>
Other		
Has anyone in your home been playing with matches or fire?	<p>If YES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make sure you have smoke alarms that work.</li> <li>• Safely dispose of or lock away matches and lighters.</li> <li>• For further advice please call us on (01604) 797000.</li> </ul>	