

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

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Walk through your home with this checklist to identify and fix potential fire and safety hazards. Complete this checklist twice a year or when daylight saving time changes.

■ SMOKE & CO ALARMS

- Smoke alarm on every level of home
- Smoke alarm inside each bedroom
- Smoke alarm outside sleeping areas
- CO detector near every sleeping area
- CO detector on every level
- Test all alarms monthly (press test button)
- Replace batteries yearly (or use 10-year sealed units)
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years
- Replace CO detectors every 5-7 years
- Everyone knows what alarms sound like

■ KITCHEN

- Fire extinguisher accessible (not under sink)
- Pot handles turned inward on stove
- Flammable items away from stovetop (towels, curtains)
- Appliance cords in good condition
- Outlets not overloaded
- Microwave and toaster clear of clutter
- Grease buildup cleaned from stove/hood
- Know how to smother a grease fire (lid, not water)

■ ELECTRICAL SAFETY

- No frayed or damaged cords
- Cords not running under rugs or furniture
- Outlets not overloaded
- No daisy-chained power strips
- Correct wattage bulbs in all fixtures
- GFCI outlets in bathroom/kitchen (test monthly)
- Cover plates on all outlets and switches
- Extension cords used temporarily, not permanently

■ HEATING EQUIPMENT

- Space heaters 3 feet from anything flammable
- Space heaters on flat, hard surface (not carpet)
- Space heaters turned off when leaving/sleeping
- Furnace inspected annually by professional
- Furnace filter replaced regularly
- Fireplace screen in place when fire burning
- Chimney cleaned annually
- Ashes disposed in metal container, away from home

■ ESCAPE PLAN

- Two escape routes from every room
- Escape routes clear of clutter
- Windows open easily (not painted shut)
- Security bars have quick-release (if applicable)
- Family meeting spot outside (mailbox, tree, etc.)
- Practice fire drills twice a year
- Everyone knows to GET OUT and STAY OUT
- Know to call 911 from outside

■ GENERAL HOME SAFETY

- Address visible from street (for emergency response)
- Dryer vent cleaned annually
- Garage door has auto-reverse feature
- Flashlights accessible (not just phone)
- Matches/lighters stored away from children
- Candles never left unattended
- Outdoor grill 10+ feet from structure
- Generator used outdoors only (20+ feet from windows)

■■■■■■■■ SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Infants/elderly: escape plan accounts for assistance
- Mobility devices: clear path to exits
- Hearing impaired: strobe light/vibrating alarms
- Pets: rescue sticker on front window
- Medications: list posted on refrigerator
- Emergency contacts posted visibly