



Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

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Home Fire Safety Checklist



A residential fire happens 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.

Heating and Cooking Hazards

YES NO

If you use oil heat or gas heat, is the equipment listed by the proper laboratories, such as UL or the American Gas Association?

Before the heating season begins, do you have your heating system inspected and serviced?

If you have a wood burning stove, has it been installed properly according to the manufacturer’s instructions?

Do you burn seasoned wood and is it stored in the proper place?

Are all vent connectors and flue pipes that pass through attics, floors, ceilings and walls properly installed?

Do you clean your chimney at least once a year? (More often if it is used regularly)

Is your kitchen stove, including the oven and the broiler, kept clean of grease?

Do all portable heaters in your home bear the label of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or another recognized safety testing agency?

When you use a portable heater, is it placed well away from any and all combustible materials?

Do you always turn off the portable heater when you go to bed?

Do you always refill the fuel tank of your kerosene heater outdoors?

Portable kerosene heaters should only be used outside or in well ventilated areas.

Do you make sure that the fuel is not contaminated prior to using it in your kerosene heater?

Has everyone in the family been warned never to use any flammable liquids to start a fire in the stove, fireplace or furnace?

Heating and Cooking Hazards (continued)

YES NO

Is your inside basement door at the head of the stairs properly fitted and kept closed at night?

Is every fireplace equipped with a sturdy metal fire screen?

Matches/Lighters, Smoking and Candle Hazards

YES NO

Do you keep matches and lighters away from sources of heat?

Do you make sure matches and smoking materials are out before disposing of them?

Do you have plenty of large, noncombustible ash trays in every room?

Is “No Smoking in Bed” a rule in your home?

Do you discard your smoking materials in ash trays outside to avoid mulch fires?

Do you extinguish candles when you leave the area?

Do you set candles only on noncombustible surfaces?

Do you leave plenty of space around burning candles, well away from combustible materials?

Do you keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children?

Do you turn oxygen off and leave the room before smoking? Smoking on oxygen can ignite anything combustible quickly.

Electrical Hazards

YES NO

Do you have qualified electricians install or extend your wiring?

When you buy electrical equipment and appliances, do you always look for the UL label of Underwriters Laboratories Inc.?

Electrical Hazards *(continued)* 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 electric iron and all electrical appliances used for cooking? YES NO

Do you have adequate circuit breakers or fuses for the equipment used in your home? YES NO

Are all extension cords of the right size, in the open, 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 electronics? YES NO

Are extension cords the correct size (wire gauge, electrical load, length)? They should be for portable equipment only. YES NO

Are areas in and around the building kept free from accumulated packing materials, paper and other combustible materials? YES NO

Are exits, stairways and hallways clutter-free at all times? YES NO

Are all spills of flammable or combustible liquids or hazardous materials cleaned up promptly? YES NO

Housekeeping Hazard YES NO

Do you keep your basement, closets and attic clear of rags, papers and other combustible materials? YES NO

When you store paint, varnish, and other items, do you keep the containers tightly closed? YES NO

Has everyone in your family been warned never to use gasoline or other flammable liquids to clean clothes, furnishings or floors? YES NO

Do you clean the lint filter after every use of the dryer? YES NO

Do you inspect and clear the inside of the dryer vent exhaust tubing at least twice a year? YES NO

Do you vacuum and dust your smoke alarms? YES NO

Yard and Garage Hazards YES NO

Do you keep your yard cleaned of leaves, debris and combustible rubbish? YES NO

When you keep gasoline for use in a power mower or outboard motor, is it stored in a strong, clearly labeled red gasoline safety-type can? YES NO

Yard and Garage Hazards *(continued)* YES NO

If your garage is attached to the house, is it separated by a closed, fire-retardant door? YES NO

Smoke Alarms YES NO

Do you have a smoke alarm installed on every level of your home and in sleeping areas? YES NO

Do you test your smoke alarm monthly to be certain it is always working? YES NO

Do you replace the batteries in the smoke alarms twice a year at the time change? YES NO

Have you replaced your smoke alarm when it is 10 years old or older? YES NO

Especially for Parents YES NO

Are you careful never to leave children alone in a room with a portable heater or wood stove? YES NO

Do you leave a responsible person with your children when you go out, even for a little while? YES NO

When you employ babysitters, do you instruct them carefully on what to do in case of a fire? YES NO

Do your children know their address? YES NO

IMPORTANT: A child learns by example as well as by instruction. Do you always demonstrate fire safe practices around your children? YES NO

In Case of Fire YES NO

Do you know the telephone number of your fire department or when and how to use 911? YES NO

Do you know how to report a fire? YES NO

Is there an extinguisher easily accessible in your kitchen and do you know how to use it? YES NO

Do you have a home escape plan with at least two ways out of every room? YES NO

Have you practiced your home escape plan by holding fire drills during the day and night? YES NO

Have you included caregivers in your home escape? YES NO

Do you have an agreed upon meeting place? YES NO



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