



Olathe Fire Department



Home Safety Checklist

Use this check-sheet to go through your home as you look for hazards. A hazard is something that could start a fire or cause an injury. Unchecked boxes could indicate a hazard so correct it to make your home more safe.

Cooking and Kitchen Hazards

- We *always* stay in the kitchen when cooking, and watch cooking food closely.
- We turn pot handles inward while cooking and always use back burners first to avoid burns.
- We know to put a lid on a grease fire, never water. Baking soda or a fire extinguisher will work, too. (But never water, salt, baking powder, or flour.)



Heating Hazards

- We keep papers, boxes, shelves, etc. at least three (3) feet from the furnace and water heater.
- The furnace is checked annually by an expert.
- If we burn wood, our chimney is cleaned regularly to avoid a creosote build-up.
- Our fireplace has glass doors or a tight fitting metal screen to keep sparks from flying out.
- We make sure our dryer vent is clear of lint and other obstructions.
- We keep space heaters away from furniture and turn them off and unplug them when going to sleep or leaving the room.



Smoke Alarms

- We have working smoke alarms on every level of our home, one outside each sleeping area and one inside every sleeping room.
- We have some battery operated smoke alarms —or an electric alarm with battery back-up (with working batteries) in case of power loss.
- We test and clean all smoke alarms regularly.
- We change batteries in our battery operated (and battery back-ups) smoke alarms at least once a year.
- All of our smoke alarms are younger than 10 years old.



Bathroom Hazards

- Our water heater is set below 120° Fahrenheit.
- We test the bath water to make sure it's not too hot before anyone bathes.
- We keep all appliances (hair dryers, curling irons, etc.) away from water to avoid electrocution.

Matches, Lighters, Candles and Careless Smoking Hazards

- All matches and lighters are kept out of the reach of young children, up high in a locked cabinet.
- Smokers use large, deep ashtrays and empty ashes into a metal container.
- Lit candles are always in a sturdy metal or glass base and placed on a non-flammable surface.
- My family knows to keep lit candles away from things that can burn, like curtains, blankets, towels, etc.
- My family makes sure candles aren't burning anywhere in the home when leaving a room or going to sleep.



Electrical Hazards

- We use extension cords only temporarily and unplug them after use.
- We only plug one item into each plug-in (we do not use octopus plugs) to prevent overloading the outlet.
- We unplug all appliances such as toasters, coffeemakers, and toaster ovens when not in use and we watch them closely when in use.
- We cover unused outlets with outlet protectors if young children are in the home or will be visiting.
- Electrical cords are carefully inspected, kept in good condition, and used properly.



Housekeeping Safety Tips

- Our home address numbers are clearly posted in large numbers (at least four inches tall).
- We have an emergency preparedness kit assembled in case of emergency.
- We keep all medicines, vitamins, and poisons locked up and out of the reach.
- We have emergency numbers (911 and poison control) posted as a reminder for guests and children.
- We have installed carbon monoxide detectors according to manufacturer guidelines.
- We keep gasoline in an approved container outside of the home in a properly vented shed away from all heat sources.
- We only use the BBQ grill outside and keep it away from items that can burn (piles of leaves, papers etc.).



In Case of Fire

- In case of fire we know two ways out of each room in the home.
- Everyone knows where the meeting place is located. Outside of the home, in front, and away from the home. For example: a neighbor's porch, community mailbox, light pole, or neighbor's tree.
- We practice our exit drills often with the entire family so everyone knows what to do and where to meet.
- We know to call 911 from a neighbor's home.



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