



A guide to fire safety in the home



A small additional space for specific notes/advice

Contact us for more advice:

Call 0800 05 02 999

Email firekills@dsfire.gov.uk

For more information visit www.dsfire.gov.uk/homesafety

To request any of the information in this document in an alternative format, or language, please contact us using the above information.



**DEVON &
SOMERSET**
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Fires in the home are unfortunately common and can lead to severe injuries and extensive property damage. However, by taking simple precautions, you can significantly reduce the risks associated with house fires.

Please follow these guidelines to safeguard your home and loved ones:

1. Smoke alarms:

- Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly to ensure they are working.
- Keep alarms clean by vacuuming them every three months.
- Consider investing in a 10-year smoke alarm or change batteries annually.

2. Kitchen safety:

- Keep your cooking area tidy and clutter-free.
- Avoid leaving your cooking unattended and avoid distractions.
- Cook with minimal oil and use a timer to remind you.
- Don't cook under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- Exercise caution when using hot oil; consider using an air fryer.
- Always accompany young children in the kitchen.

3. Electrical safety:

- Switch-off and unplug electrical appliances when not in use.
- Avoid using block plug adapters and do not overload sockets.
- Switch off appliances like washing machines before going out or overnight.
- Never leave a device charging unattended.
- Use official chargers and always have laptops on a hard surface when in use.

4. Heating your home safely:

- Place portable heaters at least one metre away from flammable items.
- Dry laundry away from heaters to prevent clothing fires.
- Consider oil-filled radiators over other heaters.
- Switch off and unplug heaters before leaving or going to sleep.

5. Avoid real flames:

- Opt for battery-operated tealights for a safer alternative to candles.
- If using candles, never leave them unattended and pop them in secure holders.

- Smoke outside whenever possible.

- Use caution when smoking indoors; use an ashtray and avoid smoking in bed.

6. Escape routes:

- Create an escape route plan for everyone in your home.
- Keep routes and exits clear of obstructions.
- Ensure keys for doors and windows are easily accessible.
- In the event of a fire, get out, stay out, and call 999.

7. Lithium-ion batteries (a rechargeable battery commonly found in mobile phones, laptops, wireless appliances and electric vehicles, such as e-bikes and e-scooters):

- Store batteries in a cool, dry place away from flammable materials.
- Recycle damaged or swollen batteries and/or items that contain them, at designated recycling points.
- Use recommended chargers and prevent overcharging.
- Try not to leave batteries unattended while charging and don't charge them overnight.
- Avoid charging electric vehicles in escape routes.

8. Emollient creams (medical moisturisers for the skin):

- Wash clothing belonging to emollient users separately.
- Avoid sitting too close to open fires or heaters.
- Take care not to lean over a hot hob and roll up sleeves when cooking.
- Avoid naked flames, such as candles and smoking materials.