



HOME FIRE SAFETY

www.seattle.gov/fire

SEATTLE FIRE DEPARTMENT PREVENTION DIVISION

HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Heating

- Baseboard heaters do not touch any furniture or curtains, or other items stored on the floor.
- You have your chimneys and heating systems inspected, cleaned and repaired prior to the heating season.
- All portable heaters are placed at least three feet from bedding, furniture, and other flammable materials. They are plugged directly in the wall, not into an extension cord.
- Portable heaters are turned off when you leave the room or before going to bed.
- Every fireplace is equipped with a sturdy metal screen.

Electrical

- You use as few extension cords and plug adapters as possible.
- Extension cords used are not tacked to walls, run under rugs, or through doorways.
- Small appliances, like the toaster, are unplugged when not in use.

Housekeeping

- Matches and lighters are kept out of the reach of children in a secure place.
- Paint, varnish, and other flammables are stored in sturdy metal containers and in a cool place.
- Ashes from fireplaces and barbecues are only disposed of in metal containers.
- Candles are only lit when someone is able to keep an eye on them, and when placed in sturdy holders away from things that can burn.

Kitchen

- In the event of a grease fire, you know that the best thing to do is to put a lid on it.
- Cooking is never left unattended.
- The oven is never used to heat the home.

Smoking

- House rules include not smoking in bed or while lying down.

Smoke Alarms

- Smoke alarms are installed on a ceiling or high on the wall outside of the bedrooms on each level of the home and in every bedroom.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed once a year.
- Smoke alarms are tested and vacuumed regularly.

Escape Plan

- You have a plan of escape showing two ways out of every room in your home, especially bedrooms.
- You regularly practice your escape plan by holding fire drills in your home.
- Windows used for escaping can be opened easily.
- Your house numbers are clearly visible from the street.

Items that you did not mark may put you at a higher risk from fire.

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Home Fire Escape Plan

Have a Plan

Make a plan for every room and every member of your home. Mark two ways out of every room. Include windows.

Security Bars

Ensure security bars on windows have quick-release devices. Bars need to be opened easily and quickly from the inside by everyone in the household. Make sure to practice opening them.

Have a Meeting Place

Pick a meeting place outside, well away from the building. Do a head count at the meeting place to make sure everyone got out.

Call 911

Call 911 as soon as you are outside safely.

Stay Out

Once you are outside, stay outside.

Tips for a safe escape

- If you see smoke, try another way out. If you can not avoid the smoke, crawl under it on your hands and knees.
- Do not stop or go back for anything. Possessions can be replaced. You can not.
- Remember fire spreads quickly. Get out fast and stay out. Call 911 as quickly as possible.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

A properly operated fire extinguisher can stop a small fire and keep it from growing. An ABC, multipurpose dry chemical extinguisher is the recommended type.

Before using, be sure you:

- know how to use it
- know how to tell if the fire is safe to fight
- have called 911
- have alerted others to evacuate
- can quickly exit if needed

SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Count your smoke alarms

The Seattle Fire Department recommends you install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home, including one in every bedroom.

Check your smoke alarms

Press the test button on smoke alarms each month to make certain they are still working.

Vacuum your smoke alarms

Clean smoke alarms each month of dust and cobwebs to keep them working properly.

Change your batteries

Change smoke alarm batteries at least once a year, or as soon as the alarm "chirps" warning that the battery is low. An easy way to remember is in the fall when clocks are changed from Daylight Saving Time. Long-life batteries do not need to be changed yearly.

Change your alarm

Replace smoke alarms once every ten years.

Know the sound

Make sure everyone in the home can hear and recognize the sound of the smoke alarm and knows how to react immediately. Assistive devices are available for those who are deaf or hard of hearing.

Free smoke alarms are available for qualified home owners by calling 206-386-1337.

Fire Drill Checklist

- The escape plan has been discussed with all family members.
- Start the drill with everyone in their room, pretending to be asleep.
- Signal the start of the drill by sounding the smoke alarm. It is especially important for children to recognize the sound of the smoke alarm.
- Practice using your main escape routes first. Do not run. Just go quickly and calmly outside and to the meeting place.
- The family meeting place is located safely away from the building and out of the way of the arriving fire department.
- Everyone arrives at the family meeting place in under two minutes.
- Someone pretends to go call 911 for help. They know what information to give the 911 dispatcher.