

Fire safety information

Smoke alarms



Your home should have at least one smoke alarm and you should check it regularly. You're four times more likely to die in a fire if you don't have a smoke alarm that works. There are several different kinds, but most have an obvious test button. If your alarm doesn't work when you test it, let us know. A working smoke alarm could save your life.

Cooking appliances



Around half of home, fires are caused by cooking accidents. Follow some simple rules to stay safe. Take care if you're wearing loose clothing – they can easily catch fire. Keep tea towels and cloths away from the cooker and hob. Don't leave children on their own in the kitchen. If you have to go to another room, turn off the heat and move the pan to a cool ring. When you're done, make sure you switch off the cooker.

Take extra care when frying. Never leave a chip pan unattended. If the oil starts to smoke, turn off the heat and leave it to cool. If your chip pan catches fire, don't throw water on it. Don't take risks: turn off the heat if it's safe to do so, leave the kitchen, close the door behind you, and call 999.

Smoking



Every six days someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette. Stub cigarettes out properly and dispose of them carefully. Put them out. Right out! Use a proper ashtray – never a wastepaper basket. Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach.

Take extra care if you smoke when you're tired, taking prescription drugs, or if you've been drinking. Never smoke in bed. You might fall asleep and set your bed or sofa on fire.

Emollient creams



If you need to use these extra-strong moisturisers for skin conditions such as eczema, psoriasis or bed sores it is particularly important that you take care. Residue from the creams can build up in furniture, clothes and bedding and make them highly flammable. Keep well away from fires or any kind of naked flame.

Candles



Two fires a day are started by candles. Keep them away from flammable materials like curtains. Put candles out when you leave the room, and make sure they're put out completely at night. Keep pets away, and don't leave children alone with lit candles.

Electrics



Faulty electrics (appliances, wiring and overloaded sockets) cause around 6,000 fires in the home across the country every year. Don't ever plug in too many appliances to the same socket. Try to keep one plug to one socket. Certain appliances, such as washing machines, must have a single plug to themselves, as they are high powered.