

■ Good Hands® Advice

Tips to help you be prepared and informed



Fire Safety in the Home

Household fires can be devastating. They cause significant damage, destroy valuable possessions and claim many lives each year. Help keep your home and family safe by following these tips:

Smoke Detectors and Fire Extinguishers

- Install smoke detectors on every floor.
- If your smoke alarms are hardwired, install battery-powered ones as backup in case of power failure.
- Test smoke detectors monthly and change batteries at least twice a year.
- Keep a fire extinguisher on each floor - learn how to use them, and inspect them regularly.

Kitchen

- Turn the stove off if you leave the kitchen and don't leave cooking unattended.
- Don't wear loose-fitting clothing as it can catch on pot handles or dangle on stove burners.
- Turn pot handles inwards to keep pots from overturning and to prevent children from touching them.
- Never pour water on a grease fire. Instead, smother the flames by sliding a lid or wet towel over the pan.
- Clean the stove hood exhaust at least three times a year.
- Never use turkey fryers indoors.

Electrical

- Don't plug too many appliances into one outlet.
- Make sure fuses and circuit breakers are working properly.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs or furniture.
- Clean the lint filter in your clothes dryer regularly.

Heating

- Frequently inspect and clean chimney flues and your furnace. If you have a wood stove, have it inspected for clearances and acceptability.
- Do not leave your home with a wood stove burning.
- Keep space heaters at least one meter away from curtains and other combustible materials, and turn them off when leaving a room.
- Don't use gas-fuelled appliances as alternative heating sources indoors.

Smoking

- Never smoke in bed.
- Use wide, stable ashtrays, and wet cigarette butts to extinguish.
- Make sure there are no ashes or butts on or around furniture.
- Hide matches and lighters from children.

Around the Home

- Don't leave lighted candles unattended.
- Regularly dispose of flammable paints, solvents, stacks of paper, etc.
- Never let dry leaves and debris collect near outside walls of your house.
- Do not keep your attic cluttered.
- Dispose of ashes from fireplaces, wood stoves and cigarettes in a metal container with a lid.

Personal Safety

- Develop a fire evacuation plan and hold regular fire drills with all members of the family.
- Ensure everyone knows the *Stop, Drop and Roll* drill in case clothing catches on fire.

Source : Insurance Bureau of Canada

For more safety tips,
visit allstate.ca/learningcentre,
contact your local Allstate Insurance
Agency or call 1-800-allstate.

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