



Home fire safety Information for the local community

Your Defence is a Three-Layer System: Prevent, Detect, React.

Fire safety isn't just a list of rules; it's a strategy. We will walk you through the three essential layers to protect your home.



LAYER 1: PREVENT

Stop fires before they can start. This is your first and most powerful line of defence.



LAYER 2: DETECT

Ensure you have an early warning. Give yourself the precious time needed to escape.



LAYER 3: REACT

Know exactly what to do when an alarm sounds. A clear plan saves lives.

PREVENT: Targeting the “Big Three”



COOKING

- Accounts for **44%** of all home fires.



ELECTRICS

- Involved in **60%** of accidental fires.



SMOKING

- The single biggest cause of fire-related deaths (**28%**).

The greatest dangers are often hiding in plain sight.

Understanding the main causes of house fires is the first step towards prevention. We will unmask the four most common culprits in our homes.



The Electrical
Fault Line



The Kitchen
Flashpoint



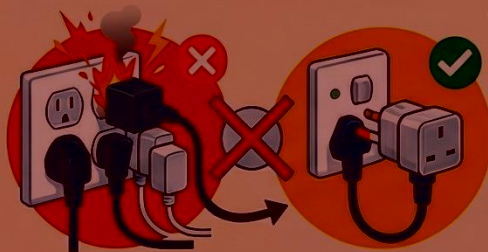
The Open
Flame



The Battery
Meltdown

Home Electrical Fire Safety: A Quick Guide

CORE SAFETY RULES



Don't Overload Sockets

Use one plug per socket or a bar-type fused adaptor, not a block-type.



Watch for Warning Signs

Look for hot plugs, scorch marks, frayed wires, or fuses that blow repeatedly.



Use the Correct Fuse

Match the fuse amp (3, 5, or 13) to the appliance's power wattage.



APPLIANCE-SPECIFIC CHECKS



Check Your Electric Blanket

Replace blankets every 10 years and have them professionally tested every 3 years.



Use Heaters Safely

Keep portable heaters at least 1 metre (3 feet) away from furniture and curtains.



Fit Smoke Alarms on Every Floor

This is your best protection. Test the batteries every week.

50% of all accidental home fires start in the kitchen.

High-Risk Habits



Leaving cooking unattended, even for a moment.



Keeping flammable items like oven gloves and cloths near the hob.



Using water to extinguish an oil or pan fire.

Habits of Safety



Never leave cooking unattended.



Keep the hob area clear of flammable materials.



For pan fires: turn off the heat, slide a lid over it, and let it cool completely.

Smoking materials are a leading cause, accounting for over 30% of fatal fires. Candles cause around 800 fires per year.

High-Risk Habits



Leaving candles unattended or near flammable items.



Using unstable holders that can easily be knocked over.



Not extinguishing cigarettes fully.

Habits of Safety



Always extinguish candles when you leave a room or go to sleep.



Use stable, heat-resistant holders placed on a flat surface.



Ensure all smoking materials are fully extinguished with water.

Don't Get Burned: Your Guide to Candle Safety

The Hidden Danger of a Small Flame

Over
5 fires a day
are started by
candles.

A small flame can quickly lead to a major fire if proper precautions are not taken.

A Real-Life Story: A Night to Forget

"I never thought that such a small flame could do so much damage."

- Rattan Ghuman

A Real-Life Story: Rattan Ghuman's home was severely damaged after a tea light he thought was out melted his TV and started a serious fire.

Essential Candle Safety Rules

Never leave burning candles unattended.
Always put candles out completely when you leave a room or go to sleep.



Be Prepared: Your Fire Safety Lifetime

A smoke alarm is your best protection. Installing smoke alarms is the most effective way to protect yourself and your home from fire.



Smoldering candles can still start a fire.
Ensure candles are completely extinguished, as they can continue to smolder and ignite nearby materials.



Use a proper holder.
Keep candles firmly upright in a stable, heat-resistant holder to prevent them from falling over.



Place on a heat-resistant surface.
Tea lights and night lights can melt through plastic carcases like televisions and bathtubs.



Keep clear of flammable objects.
Position candles away from curtains, furniture, shelves, and general draughts.



Mind the gap.
Always leave at least four inches (10cm) between two burning candles.



Keep out of reach.
Place candles where they cannot be accessed by children or pets.



Never lean across a candle.
Be mindful of loose clothing and hair, which can easily catch fire.



Install alarms on every floor.
Ensure you have a working smoke alarm on each level of your home for maximum coverage.



Test your alarms weekly.
Regularly check that the batteries in your smoke alarms are working.



Put it out safely.
Use a snuffer or spoon to extinguish the flame, as blowing it out can send sparks and hot wax flying.



If there's a fire: Get Out, Stay Out, and Call 999.
Have a clear escape plan and never re-enter a burning building.

Powering Down the Risk: Your Guide to Lithium-Ion Battery Safety

The Rising Threat of Battery Fires

A Growing Emergency:
3+ Battery Fires Every Day



In the UK, incidents involving lithium-ion batteries surged by 93% between 2022 and 2024.



E-Transport is Fuelling
the Problem



Fires in e-bikes doubled and those from electric cars rose by 77% in two years.

Your Essential Safety Checklist

Use Only Official Chargers
& Certified Products



Counterfeit chargers are a main cause of fires; only use the one supplied by the manufacturer.



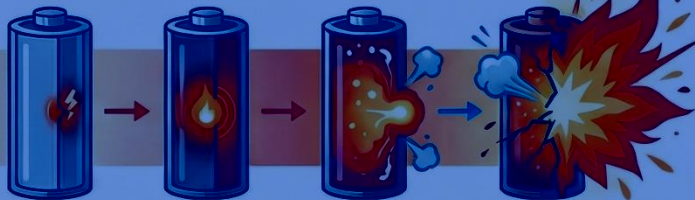
Charge on manufacturer



Never charge devices on a bed or sofa, or in an escape route like a hallway.

What is 'Thermal Runaway'?

An irreversible overheating process that makes battery fires extremely hot, fast, and unpredictable.



Watch for the Warning Signs

Immediately stop using any battery that is swollen, dented, leaking, or making popping sounds.

Fires caused by e-bikes and e-scooters have increased by 400%, driven by volatile lithium-ion batteries.

High-Risk Habits



Charging devices on soft, flammable surfaces.



Charging any device overnight or while unattended.



Continuing to use or charge a swollen, damaged, or hot battery.

Habits of Safety



Always charge on hard, non-flammable surfaces.



Unplug devices once they are fully charged.



Supervise charging and never leave items charging when you leave the house.

One Small Device Makes an Enormous Difference



You are **8 times** more likely to die in a fire without a working smoke alarm.

Leading cause of all fires:
Cooking accidents (44%)

Leading cause of fatal fires:
Smoking materials (28%)

Incidents involving lithium-ion batteries surged by **93%** between 2022 and 2024.

The Three Golden Rules of Placement.

Fitting an alarm is easy if you follow the manufacturer's instructions. The most important thing is putting it in the right place.



- 1 One on every floor.** The more alarms you have, the safer you'll be. You should have at least one on each level of your home.



- 2 Position on the ceiling.** Fit alarms on the ceiling, as near as possible to the centre of the room, hallway or landing.



- 3 Keep it clear.** The alarm must be at least 30 cm (one foot) away from any wall or night fitting. ~~Also, do not fit alarms too near~~ **kitchens or bathrooms** where steam or cooking fumes can set them off accidentally.

The 1-1-10 Rule: Your Lifesaving Habit.

Every year, people die in fires because their alarms failed due to flat or missing batteries. Look after your alarm, and it will look after you.

1



ONCE A WEEK

1



ONCE A YEAR

10



EVERY 10 YEARS



LAYER 3: REACT

When the Alarm Sounds, Every Second Counts.

Panic is the enemy in a fire.

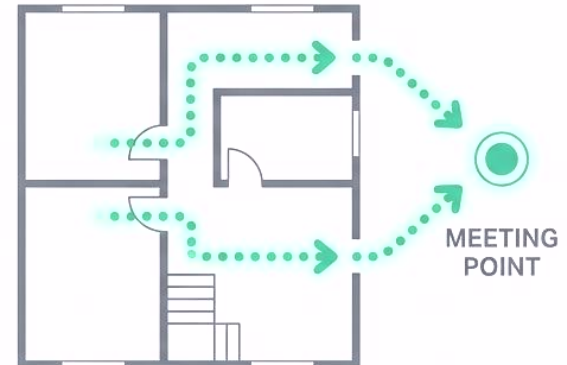
A simple, rehearsed escape plan that everyone in your home knows is the key to a safe and fast exit.

This is your action plan for when prevention and detection have done their jobs.



LAYER 3: REACT

Know exactly what to do when an alarm sounds. A clear plan saves lives.



A Clear Plan Means a Fast Escape.



1. Plan Your Route: Work out your primary escape route and make sure everyone in the home knows it.



2. Keep it Clear: Your escape route (hallways, stairs) must be kept clear of any obstructions or clutter.

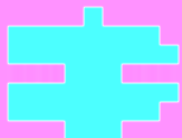


3. Plan a Backup: Think of a second escape route in case the first one is blocked by fire.



4. Know Where Your Keys Are: Keep door and window keys in one known, accessible place.

Your 5-Minute Fire Safety Action Plan



Fire Safety

There are lots of things you can do to reduce the risk of fires in your home.



Keep lighters and matches away from children



Do not leave candles burning



Do not smoke inside your home and make sure all cigarettes are put out carefully



Do not store flammable gas or liquids in your home



Turn off appliances before leaving the house



Report any problems with smoke alarms quickly and don't cover them



Make sure you don't leave cooking unattended



Use sockets safely, don't overload them or chain extension leads



Do not charge e-bikes or converted bikes inside your home



Do not charge e-scooters inside your home



Do not charge vapes or e-cigarettes inside your home

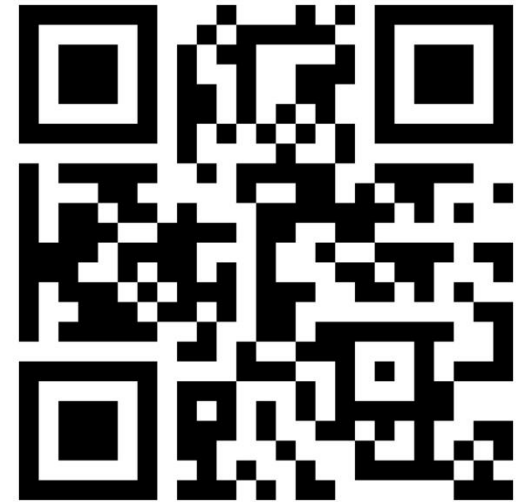


Make sure all batteries and chargers are safe

It is also important that you know the escape routes to use in the event of a fire and that these are kept clear of any obstructions.



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council



Welcome to the online **home fire safety** check
