

5 Ways to Make Your Home Safe From Fire

Beyond offering you shelter, your home is where memories are created and life unfolds. In return, taking care of it is crucial to guard against threats like fire damage. Fire is a disaster that can severely impact homes, leading to material loss, injuries, fatalities, and extensive damage from flames and smoke. While house fires are particularly hazardous, especially during colder months, there are steps you can take to minimise the risks. Consider these strategies to prevent house fires and safeguard your family and home:



Photo by [Jen Theodore](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Escape Route

Developing an escape plan ensures your family's safety during a fire. The ideal exit is your home's usual pathway. Prepare

an alternative route in case the primary one is inaccessible. Preparation is essential, so ensure everyone is familiar with the escape plan by creating and practising a map. Consider any potential challenges, like needing a flashlight.

Keep the escape paths clear and accessible, and ensure everyone knows where the keys to windows and doors are located. Once outside, call emergency services and never re-enter the house until the fire department declares it safe.

Check Your Smoke Detectors

Smoke detectors are crucial for early fire detection. They provide the first alert in case of a fire. Nowadays, they're often integrated into homes. They [detect smoke and carbon monoxide](#), sending notifications directly to your smart devices.

For those with battery-powered detectors, perform a check every six months to ensure they're operational. Simply press the button on the alarm; if you hear a faint beep, it's time to replace the batteries immediately. Conversely, a Wi-Fi-enabled alarm will notify your phone when the batteries need replacing.

Regardless of your type, ensure your smoke detectors are functioning properly. This guarantees you'll receive timely alerts during a fire, allowing ample time to handle the situation safely. Alternatively, use [smoke vent windows](#) that automatically open in a fire, letting out smoke and providing a safe exit.

Clean Your Oven and Stove

If your stove unexpectedly catches fire, your cooking skills might not be at fault. The likely cause could be food debris gathering at the bottom of the burner. The same risk applies

if you neglect to clean the buildup in your oven.

With this understanding of what can happen if food is left unattended on kitchen appliances, make it a habit to clean them after each use. Specifically, wipe down cooktops or gas stoves after cooking. For modern ovens, take advantage of the self-cleaning feature every few months. Be mindful of other hazards, like curtains too close to the stove and small items such as dish towels or cookbooks left on a still-hot burner.

Handle Cords with Caution

When [dealing with electrical cords](#), consider several safety aspects. Ensure you don't have too many devices plugged into a single outlet. This often leads to overloading. If you discover this issue, immediately reduce the number of devices to prevent potential hazards and maintain safe usage for each outlet.

Change Filters and Remove Lint

Do not overlook frayed or chewed cords, a common problem if you have pets. Exposed wires can [easily ignite a fire](#). Replace any damaged cords as soon as you notice them to minimise fire risks. Finally, be mindful of where you place your cords. Since they can become hot, avoid placing them under rugs or in tight spaces between furniture and walls.

Endnote

While there's always a chance of fires occurring unexpectedly, focusing on prevention is crucial even when you're diligent. Doing so significantly reduces the risks, making the time and effort worthwhile as it enhances your family's safety. Simply follow these tips to get started.