



Fact Sheet KPS03 April 2012

Avoiding fire risk at home

Think safe at home

Cooking

Never cook with oil/fat if you have been drinking alcohol.

If an oil or fat pan catches fire:

- If it is safe to do so, turn off the heat.
- Close the kitchen door
- Get out of the house and call 999
- Never throw water onto the fire.

Also, remember NOT to dry tea towels, etc. on or near cookers and do not place anything metal in a microwave.

Smoking

- Make sure smoking materials are never left to burn unattended
- Make sure that they are completely stubbed out in a proper ashtray before leaving the room. A small amount of water at the bottom of an ashtray will help to extinguish smoking materials
- Never smoke in bed or in an armchair when feeling drowsy or when under the influence of alcohol or drugs (prescribed or otherwise)
- Never smoke near someone who is on oxygen.



Over half of the 50,000 household fires in Britain is caused by cooking appliance, which includes oil and fat pans.

Electric Blankets

Make sure you use your blanket properly.

Check its condition

- Switch it off before you get into bed (unless it is the type that can be used overnight)
- Never use the blanket if it is wet, soiled or creased. Never switch it on to dry it out
- Never use a hot water bottle and electric blanket together
- Replace the blanket if it is over 10 years old.

Old or damaged electric blankets cause more than 500 fires a year)



Other electrical things

- Never repair or re-join cables
- Do not run cables under the carpet
- Keep cables away from the cooker
- Never use more than one adaptor per socket
- Make sure toasters, microwaves, hairdryers and kettles, are plugged into their own socket and not used with an adaptor
- When going to bed make sure all TVs are switched off properly and not left on stand-by. Do not leave washing machines and tumble dryers running whilst in bed
- Always unplug phone chargers when not in use.



Danger! Look out for:

Hot plugs and sockets

Fuses that blow for no obvious reasons

Lights flickering

Brown scorch marks on sockets or plugs

Always put a fire guard around an open fire

Never place clothes on the guard to dry.

Do not hang a mirror above the fire place.

Never put aerosols near a fire or heater, they could explode

Keep portable heaters away from furniture and clothes

Always keep portable heaters out of

Raising the alert

If you do not have a smoke alarm there will be nothing to wake you up if there is a fire! They are cheap and easy to fit. The fire service will be happy to assist- they provide and install fire alarms free of charge, and provide help and advice on planning an escape route.

Test your smoke alarm every week. Change the battery and dust the unit every year.

Where to put your smoke alarm

- If your home is one level you should fit the alarm in the hallway between the living and sleeping areas
- If your home has more than one floor, one alarm should be at the bottom of each staircase and one on each upstairs landing
- Smoke alarms should be fitted onto the ceiling.

If there is a fire do not investigate leave the house quickly and calmly.

Call the fire service and stay outside.

If you need this factsheet in a different format, please contact the Communications Officer for Adult and Communities on:

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