



Home Safety Checklist



Richmond Fire Prevention
646-6640

Use this checklist to make a safety check of your home.

Smoking Habits:

- Are all matches and lighters kept out of children's reach?
- Is "No Smoking In Bed" a rule of the house?
- Is your family aware that ash trays should NEVER be emptied into waste baskets?
- Are there plenty of large, safe ash trays throughout the house?
- Do you check for smoldering cigarette butts in the furniture?

Electrical Hazards:

- Are appliances checked periodically for good operating conditions?
- Do extension cords have built-in surge protection?
- Are you careful not to run extension cords under rugs or over hooks and nails?
- Do you check electrical cords regularly and discard frayed or broken cords?
- When using extension cords for appliances, does the gauge of both cords match?
- Do you distribute electrical usage, so outlets are not overloaded?

Housekeeping:

- Do you keep trash cleaned out of attics and garages?
- Is paint kept in tightly closed metal containers?
- Are flammable liquids stored in safety cans and kept away from heat and children?
- Is it a rule to NEVER use flammable liquids for cleaning clothes or starting fires?
- Are oily rags kept in a tightly sealed metal container?
- Is your clothes dryer vent properly installed and cleaned regularly?

Heating and Cooking:

- If you have a fireplace, is a screen always placed in front of it?
- Is the filter for your forced air heater changed yearly and the venting cleaned?
- Are furnaces and wood burning stoves in good repair and located away from combustible walls and ceilings?
- Do you have the fireplace chimney cleaned and checked periodically?
- Do you make sure combustibles are not stored near the stove, heater or fireplace.
- Do your children keep a safe distance from flame and heat sources?

Cooking:

- Do you keep combustibles away from the stove?
- Do you clean grease regularly from the stove and oven?
- Do you stay in the kitchen area while cooking?
- Is the kitchen a kids “no play zone” when you cook?
- Do you turn pot handles inward so they can not be knocked off the stove?

Smoke Alarms:

- Have you installed a smoke alarm on each level of the house?
- Have you installed a smoke detector in each smoker’s bedroom?
- Do you test your smoke alarm(s) every month?
- Do you replace the battery in your battery operated smoke alarm at least once a year?
- If you have gas appliances, do you have carbon monoxide detectors in your house?

Fire Escape Plan:

- Does your family have a fire escape plan prepared?
- Is your escape plan posted and regularly practiced?
- Does each bedroom have TWO exits?
- Do you have a meeting place so you will know everyone is outside and safe?
- Are emergency response numbers posted on all telephones?
- Do all family members know that dialing 9-1-1 can summon fire, police or medical services?
- Do you show your babysitter/guests your home escape plan?
- Does your family (and babysitter) know the first rule in fire emergencies: *GET EVERYONE OUT FAST AND DO NOT GO BACK INSIDE?*

Fire Extinguishers:

- Do you have a UL or FM approved fire extinguisher in your home and garage?
- Do you check it monthly to see that it has maintained its pressure?
- Do you shake the extinguisher two times a year to keep the powder from packing?
- Have you covered the manufacturer’s guidelines on use with each family member?
- Does everyone in your house know where the fire extinguisher is kept?
- Does everyone understand to keep an exit at their back if they use an extinguisher?

Outside:

- Have all dried grass cuttings, tree trimmings and weeds been removed from your property?
- Is gasoline secured so children and other can not have access to it?
- Is your address posted on the front of the house and plainly visible from the roadway?