



HOARDING BEHAVIOUR

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR HOUSEHOLDS (pg. 1 of 2)

- If you store a lot of possessions around your home, a fire could be devastating, affecting you or your loved ones
- It can make fighting fires very risky
- Follow this advice and keep your home safe from fire.



If Smoking

- ✓ It is safer to smoke outside
- ✓ Ensure a cigarette is fully extinguished - Put it Out, Right Out!
- ✓ Use proper ashtrays and never throw hot ashes in the bin
- ✗ Never smoke in bed or anywhere you could fall asleep.



Flammables

- ✓ Try to recycle regularly and ensure your escape route is clear
- ✓ Keep flammable items away from fires and heaters
- ✗ Gathered newspapers and items will increase rapid spread of fire
- ✗ Don't stack items to a height - they can become unstable, fall over and block escape routes
- ✗ Don't store gas cylinders in your home - if there is a medical need, cylinders should be kept upright and outside if possible.



Candles

- ✓ Why not use LED flameless candles instead?
- ✓ If you do use candles place them in sturdy heat resistant holders
- ✓ Make sure candles are away from anything that can catch fire
- ✗ Never leave candles unattended.



Cooking

- ✓ Be careful of loose clothing and long hair near hobs
- ✗ Don't store items on the cooker
- ✗ Never leave anything that is cooking unattended
- ✗ Don't cook if taking anything that makes you drowsy.



SWITCH OFF
WHEN NOT IN USE

Electricals

- ✓ Switch off and unplug electrical items you're not using
- ✓ Ensure any worn or taped-up cables and leads are replaced
- ✓ Only use machines such as tumble dryers, washing machines and dishwashers when you are at home and not asleep
- ✗ Avoid charging devices like mobile phones when asleep
- ✗ Don't overload electrical sockets - One socket, One plug!





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Working smoke alarms save lives!

1. Press the button! Test your alarms every week
2. Early detection is vital and could give you extra time to escape
3. Get at least one smoke alarm for each floor in the home:
 - one between the sleeping areas and the kitchen / living rooms
 - one in the hallway at ground floor,
 - one at each upper level, in the landing
4. For homes with many stored possessions, consider adding more alarms. You can fit an alarm:
 - in living rooms and the kitchen
 - in bedrooms used by vulnerable people
 - in other rooms containing electrical appliances
5. Heat alarms are useful where fumes from cooking or smoke from cigarettes or open fires could lead to unwanted alarms
6. You can also try using linked alarms that activate all together and monitored alarm services that provide call center support in an emergency



Do you know your escape plan?

Work out your best clear escape route, then plan and practice how you'd get out in a fire. Remember, a blocked escape route can delay you and make a fire more intense.

Preparing your plan:

- Never store nor stack items where they could hinder your escape
- Keep your stairs, hallways and landings clear
- Always keep your keys where everyone you live with can find them
- Make sure you have enough space to open and close doors in your home
- Ensure all doors can be closed, particularly before going to bed at night

How to escape:

- If there's a fire, do not try to put it out yourself
- Get out, stay out and call for the Fire Service on 999 or 112 – know the Eircode
- Never stop on your way out for possessions nor go back inside once you're out



Worried about hoarding behaviour? Need some advice?

- Our fire-fighters can visit and provide friendly advice on fire safety measures
- This is a free service
- To request a fire-fighter visit (in Cork County Council's functional area):
 - Call: 021-4304077 or email: fireinfo@corkcoco.ie

