

Home Hazard Hunt

Do you believe that your home
is a safe place to be?

Statistics show that most fires, accidents,
and injuries occur in the home.

An important step in family preparedness is the identification of hazards in your home. Once the hazards are identified, it doesn't take much time or effort to make your home a safer place to live.

Getting Started: Using the checklist below, involve the whole family, especially your children, in a home hazard hunt. Remember that anything that can move, break, fall, or burn is a potential hazard. Foresight, imagination, and common sense are the only tools you will need! After identifying what needs to be done, devise a plan to do it.

Kitchen

- Yes / No
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Wear snug-fitting clothes when cooking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do not leave cooking food unattended |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keep pan handles turned in while cooking |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keep a pan lid nearby in case of fire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keep cords from dangling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ensure outlets near the kitchen sink are GFI (Ground Fault Interrupt) equipped |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Keep sharp knives out of reach of children |

Outside

- Yes/No
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Clear dry vegetation and rubbish from around the house |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Use barbecue grills away from buildings and vegetation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dispose of barbecue briquettes in a metal container |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Maintain a "greenbelt" around rural buildings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Check with the fire department before burning debris or using a burn barrel |

All Rooms

- Yes/No
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ensure floor coverings (rugs, carpets) are properly secured to prevent tripping hazards |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Separate draw cords on blinds and drapes to reduce strangulation hazards for kids |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ensure room exits are unobstructed |

Smoking and Matches

- Yes/No
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Store matches and lighters out of reach of children |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Use large, deep, non-tip ashtrays |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Never smoke when drowsy or in bed |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dispose of ashes and cigarette butts in a metal can at least daily |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Check furniture for smoldering cigarettes every night, especially after parties |

Electricity

- Yes/No
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Avoid the use of extension cords (If used, ensure the correct wattage rating) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Plug only one heat producing device into an electrical outlet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ensure cords are not placed under rugs |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Verify circuits are not overloaded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Replace damaged cords, plugs, sockets |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Use bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps and fixtures |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Check fuses/circuit breakers for the correct amperage ratings |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Do not override or bypass fuses or circuit breakers |

Clothes Washer and Dryer

- Yes/No
- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Verify that appliances are properly grounded |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ensure lint filter IS clean and serviceable |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | Check vent hose and vent line to ensure they are clean and provide unobstructed airflow |

Garage/Attic/Shed

Yes / No

- Use gasoline as motor fuel only and never use or store it inside the home
- Keep only a small quantity of gasoline, if necessary, in an approved container locked
- Keep flammable liquids such as paints and thinners in their original containers and store on or near the ground and away from sources of heat, sparks, or flame.
- Store used oily rags in sealed metal containers
- Never store combustibles such as newspapers and magazines

Heating Equipment

Yes/No

- Ensure fireplace inserts and gas/wood stoves comply with local codes
- Clean and inspect chimney annually
- Dispose of ashes in metal container
- Keep clothes, furnishings, and electrical cords at least 12" from wall heaters and 36" from portable heaters
- Service furnace annually
- Set water heater thermostat at 120°F

- Elevate new or replacement gas water heaters at least 18" above the floor

Bathrooms

Yes/No

- Store poisonous cleaning supplies and medicines in "childproof" cabinets
- Replace glass bottles with plastic containers
- Ensure all outlets are GFI equipped

Family Preparedness

Yes/No

- Plan two unobstructed exits from every room, including the second floor, and make sure everyone knows them
- Designate a meeting place outside
- Have an out-of-state contact for family check after a disaster/emergency
- Develop an escape plan and practice it regularly
- Store important papers and valuables in a fire proof safe or cabinet
- Maintain proper insurance coverage for your home and its contents (earthquake, flood, renter's, fire)

Fire Extinguisher

Yes/No

- Verify that an all purpose fire extinguisher (Class ABC) is maintained in an accessible location
- Ensure that all occupants know how to use it

- Are additional fire extinguishers kept in the kitchen, garage, basement, and sleeping area?

Smoke Detector

Yes/No

- Installed properly on every level?
- Tested 1st Tuesday of each month?
- Battery replaced every year?

Earthquake Hazards (All Rooms)

Yes/No

- Bolt heavy, tall, upright furniture to wall studs
- Lock or remove rollers on beds, furniture and appliances
- Secure hanging plants and light fixtures with one or more guy wires to prevent swinging into walls or windows and breaking
- Locate beds away from windows and heavy wall-mounted objects
- Secure kitchen and bathroom cabinets with "positive" (self-closing) latches
- Secure items on shelves with quake mats, Velcro, low shelf barrier, etc.
- Store heavy and/or breakable items on lower shelves
- Strap water heater to wall studs
- Use flexible connections on gas appliances
- Check chimney for loose bricks and repair as needed
- Check foundation for cracks and repair as needed

- Bolt home to foundation to prevent shifting during earthquake
- Secure mirrors and pictures to the wall or hang them with heavy wire, looped through eye screws or tongue-in-grove hangers

Practice drills are a great way to help your family plan and remember what to do in case of a disaster or emergency.

