



Safety Tips for your Home

Safety is Airbnb's top priority. Airbnb is partnering with the Chief Fire Officers Association to help provide you with key information on how to keep your home safe. Below are some top tips from our partners at the Chief Fire Officers Association:



Look around your home and work out where there are fire risks (and sort them out).

Check every room in your home to see where potential risks are. The kitchen is a room you should look closely at: nearly two thirds (62%) of accidental home fires in 2013/14 started in the kitchen. Simple steps, such as making sure toasters aren't under wall-mounted units, can help prevent a fire.

[More tips on kitchen safety from Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service here.](#)

Be particularly careful around open fires and with portable heaters.

[Check out Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service's tips about heaters.](#)

In every room, pay attention to electrical items: check your flexes and cables are in good condition and don't overload sockets. Electrical Safety First has lots more tips on electrical safety. Don't forget to look in the garage and loft for potential hazards too!

[Use Cheshire Fire and Rescue Service's Home Fire Safety Assessment to identify some home fire risk factors.](#)



Ensure that you have early warning systems in place and that everyone knows what to do if they hear the alarm.

Make sure you have smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms fitted in your home. Smoke alarms can warn you if a fire breaks out in your home – especially if it happens at night, when you're asleep. There are a range of different types of alarm available.

[Check out Cornwall Fire and Rescue's information page about smoke alarms.](#)

Heat alarms are ideal for your kitchen and garage – they won't false alarm if you burn the toast, but will sound if the room goes above a certain temperature. Carbon Monoxide alarms should be fitted where gas, oil or solid fuel is burnt – for example near boilers, gas fires or cookers. The key thing is that alarms are working: never take the batteries out, and test them regularly – weekly if possible. Special alarms are also available for those with sight or hearing difficulties.



Put things that can catch fire away from things that can cause fire.

For a fire to start there must be three things: firstly, something that can cause a fire. Lots of things that provide heat or energy, or reflect it, can cause a fire. As well as the obvious things such as cigarettes, matches, heaters and candles, fires have been caused by items such as chargers, hair straighteners, electrical sparks, and crystal doorknobs! Secondly, you need something that can catch fire: this could include fabrics (such as curtains, clothes or tea towels), wood (even furniture), paper, plastics and rubbish. Thirdly, a fire needs oxygen. If you think something might catch fire – such as a tea towel – keep it away from something that might cause a fire – such as a cooker.

[Take London Fire Brigade's quiz to guess what caused the fires in the pictures.](#)



Store everything in a safe place.

Keep corridors, stairs, landings and doors clear – especially ones that lead to the outside. Keep your hallway, corridors, and rooms free from clutter and trip hazards, so they are easy to use in an emergency.

[More storage tips from Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service.](#)



Identify safe ways to escape if there's a fire with an 'escape plan'.

Know the escape routes from each room in your home – work out how you would get out of your home if a fire started in another room. Make sure everyone who lives or stays with you knows the plan.

[Watch South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service's video on planning an escape route.](#)



Make sure that doors are closed (especially at night).

A closed door helps to stop fire and smoke spreading, which can help protect your escape route. If a smoke alarm sounds at night outside your room, test if the door and door handle are hot, using the back of your hand. If they are hot – **don't open the door** as there is likely to be a fire on the other side.

[Find out more about the actions to take if you're trapped by fire from Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service.](#)



Looking for advice?

Your local fire and rescue service may be able to offer you a Safe and Well Visit, identifying where there are fire risks in your home and offering advice.

[Find contact details for your local fire and rescue service here.](#)



Looking for more information?

Check out the website for your local fire and rescue service.

[Find contact details here.](#)

Or get advice and resources from the useful sources below:

Carbon Monoxide:

Find out more about the dangers of Carbon Monoxide poisoning [from Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue Service.](#)

The Fire Kills campaign:

'Fire Kills' was introduced in 1999 to bring together messages about fire safety. Its broad aim is the prevention of accidental domestic fires, and the resulting injury or loss of life.

www.gov.uk/firekills

Government website:

A wide range of fire safety information leaflets is available for download at

www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-safety-guidance

Electrical Safety First:

Electrical Safety First is a charity that aims to ensure that everyone in the UK understands the importance of electrical safety. It has lots of information and interactive tools on its website to help people remain safe around electricity and electrical items.

www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk

RoSPA (The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents):

A charity that promotes safety and the prevention of accidents at work, at leisure, on the road, in the home and through safety education.

www.rospa.com