



# Spring Cleaning Fire Safety Checklist



Spring Cleaning is a time when the risk of in home accidents and injuries is heightened. It's also a time when many fire and safety hazards in the home get overlooked.

## In the House

- ☐ **Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide Alarms** - Gently clean the alarms, but make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions first. Replace smoke and CO alarms batteries and test them once a month by pushing the test button.
- ☐ **Fire Extinguishers** - Check your fire extinguisher by following manufactures recommendations, see our section on fire extinguishers.
- ☐ **Kitchen** - Keep countertops and stovetops free of grease and clutter. Excess grease on the drip pan or stovetop can easily catch fire. Keep items that can catch fire, such as oven mitts, towels, or wooden utensils, away from your stovetop. Check and clean filters above stove. Pull refrigerator out and vacuum or dust the coils.
- ☐ Properly store **household chemicals** and never mix cleaning agents
- ☐ Change **appliance filters** - Swap out HVAC filters, don't forget other appliances like water filters, air purifiers, drain pumps etc...
- ☐ **Clothes Dryer** - Clean the lint that has been collected around the drum before or after each load of laundry. Always use a lint filter and clean it regularly.



- ☐ **Electrical Cords** - Inspect the electrical cords in your home and replace worn ones. Avoid running cords under carpets or across doorways. Use extension cords only temporarily and plug major appliances directly into wall sockets.
- ☐ Always keep **stairs and landings** clear for safe evacuation in event of an emergency.
- ☐ **Windows** should be checked to ensure they open and close properly, in case they are needed as an exit



For more information and free fire-safety resources visit,  
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# *(continued) Spring Cleaning Fire Safety Checklist*



## In the House *(continued)*

- ☐ **Recycle** - Get rid of old newspapers, magazines and junk mail. These items tend to pile up and can greatly contribute to the severity and spread of fire.
- ☐ Ensure you have an **emergency preparedness kit** in case of incidents such as power outages and flooding.
- ☐ Practice your families **fire escape plan** so everyone knows what to do in case of an emergency

## Around the House

- ☐ Make sure your **address numbers** are up and visible from the street.
- ☐ Maintain a **clear 'fire zone'** of 3 metres (10 feet) around structures. Ensure that mulch is at least 30 cm (1 foot) away from the house with a non-combustible barrier in between, such as rock.
- ☐ Check outdoor **electrical outlets** and other electrical appliances for animal nests and to ensure proper wiring.
- ☐ Keep a **garden hose** with an attached nozzle connected and ready for use.
- ☐ Remove leaves and trash from **carports and garages**: Combustible materials are dangerous if they are exposed to heated automobile components, especially under the vehicle.
- ☐ Check **fuels containers** for leaks and make sure they are properly stored.
- ☐ Clear **exterior vents** of debris from stoves, furnaces and fireplaces.
- ☐ Clean up and properly store **paints, pool and yard chemicals**.
- ☐ Let **power equipment** sit for approximately 30 minutes before placing it inside to be sure there is no possibility of fire.

*As you decide which home cleaning projects to tackle in what order, let's add fire safety to the checklist.*



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