



# Department of Commerce

Division of State Fire Marshal

Ted Strickland, Governor  
Kimberly A. Zurz, Director

8895 East Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068

www.com.ohio.gov

## Home Fire Safety Check List

A residential fire occurs every half hour in Ohio. How safe is your home from fire? To determine the safety of your home from fire hazards, study these questions with your family. Every "yes" answer indicates a positive fire safety situation. However, every "no" answer points to a fire hazard that needs to be corrected.

### Matches/lighters and Careless Smoking Hazards

- |  | Yes                      | No                       |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you keep matches and lighters away from sources of heat?                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you make sure matches and smoking materials are out before disposing of them? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you have plenty of large, noncombustible ash trays in every room?             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is "No Smoking in Bed" a rule in your home?                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you use ash trays outside to avoid mulch fires?                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Electrical Hazards

- |  |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Do you have qualified electricians install or extend your wiring?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| When you buy electrical equipment and appliances, do you always look for the UL label of Underwriters Laboratories Inc.?                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there enough electrical outlets in every room to avoid the need for multiple attachment plugs and long extension cords?                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are there proper heat controls on your electrical iron and all electrical appliances used for cooking?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you have adequate circuit breaker fuses for the equipment used in your home?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are all extension cords of the right size, in the open, not under rugs or through partitions or openings, and are they for temporary use only? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is there adequate wiring in all room for today's electronics?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Heating and Cooking Hazards

- |  |                          |                          |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| If you use oil heat or gas heat, is the equipment listed by the proper laboratories, such as UL or the American Gas Association? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Before the heating season begins, do you have your heating system inspected and serviced?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

### Heating and Cooking Hazards

(continued)

- |   | Yes                      | No                       |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| If you have a wood burning stove, has it been installed properly according to manufacturers instructions?                             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you burn seasoned wood and is it stored in the proper place?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Are all vent connectors and flue pipes that pass through attics, floors, ceilings and walls properly installed?                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you clean your chimney at least once a year? (More often if it is used more regularly)   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is your kitchen stove, including the oven and the broiler, kept clean of grease?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do all portable heaters in your home bear the label of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or some other recognized safety testing agency? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If you use a portable heater, is it placed well away from any and all combustible materials?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you always refill the fuel tank of your kerosene heater outdoors?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Since portable kerosene heaters use up oxygen when they burn, do you always have adequate ventilation?                                | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you always turn off the portable heater when you go to bed?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Do you make sure that the fuel is not contaminated prior to using it in your kerosene heater?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| If using kerosene heaters, do you have working carbon monoxide detectors outside of each sleeping area?                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is your inside basement door at the head of the stairs properly fitted and kept closed at night?                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Has everyone in the family been warned never to use any flammable liquids to start a fire in the stove, fireplace or furnace?         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Is every fireplace equipped with a sturdy metal fire screen?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(over)

## Housekeeping Hazards

Yes No

- Do you keep your basement, closets and attic clear of rags, papers and other combustible materials?  Yes  No
- If you store paint, varnish, and other items, do you keep the containers tightly closed?  Yes  No
- Has everyone in your family been warned never to use gasoline or other flammable liquids for cleaning clothes, furnishings or floors?  Yes  No
- Do you clean the lint filter after every use of the dryer?  Yes  No
- Do you vacuum and dust your smoke detector?  Yes  No

## Yard and Garage Hazards

- Do you keep your yard cleaned of leaves, debris and combustible rubbish?  Yes  No
- If you keep gasoline for use in a power mower or outboard motor, is it stored in a strong, clearly labeled red gasoline safety-type can?  Yes  No
- If your garage is attached to the house, is it separated by a fire-retardant door which is kept closed?  Yes  No
- If you store kerosene, is it placed in an approved blue and white container that is clearly labeled kerosene?  Yes  No

## Smoke Detectors

- Do you have a smoke detector installed on every level of your home and in sleeping areas?  Yes  No
- Do you test your detector monthly to ensure that it is in proper working order?  Yes  No
- Do you change the batteries twice a year at the time change?  Yes  No
- Have you replaced your smoke detector if it is 10 years old or older?  Yes  No

## Especially for Parents

Yes No

- Do you extinguish candles when you leave the area?  Yes  No
- Do you use noncombustible containers to set candles on?  Yes  No
- Do you keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children?  Yes  No
- Are you careful never to leave children alone in a room with a portable heater or wood stove?  Yes  No
- Do you leave a responsible person with your children when you go out, even for a little while?  Yes  No
- When you employ babysitters, do you instruct them carefully on what to do in case of a fire?  Yes  No
- Do your children know their address?  Yes  No
- IMPORTANT: A child learns by example as well as by instruction. In regard to fire safety, do you always set a good example?  Yes  No

## In Case of Fire

- Do you know the telephone number of your fire department or how to use 911?  Yes  No
- Do you know how to call in a fire alarm?  Yes  No
- Is there an extinguisher easily accessible in your kitchen and do you know how to use it?  Yes  No
- Do you have an escape plan with at least two ways out of every room in your home?  Yes  No
- Have you practiced that escape plan by holding fire drills in your home during the day and night?  Yes  No
- Have you included caregivers in your drills?  Yes  No
- Do you have a central meeting place?  Yes  No



**Ohio Department of Commerce**  
**Division of State Fire Marshal**  
8895 East Main Street  
Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068  
1-888-243-0305  
TTY/TDD: 1-800-750-0750  
[www.com.ohio.gov/fire](http://www.com.ohio.gov/fire)