

# Make Your Home Fire Safe

Use this checklist to spot risks or hazards that might cause a fire.

## SMOKE ALARMS AND FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Install hard-wired or long-life photoelectric smoke alarms in every bedroom, living area and hallway.
- Use a heat alarm in your kitchen, bathroom or laundry. Smoke alarms in these locations are prone to false alarms.
- Test batteries every month.
- Dust or vacuum around smoke alarms regularly.
- Replace expired alarms. The expiration date will be on the underside or side of the alarm.
- Get a fire extinguisher or fire blanket and learn how to use them. Ask Fire and Emergency for advice

## APPLIANCES

- Turn off appliances when not in use. If practical, unplug them at the wall as well.
- Second hand appliances should be tested and certified as safe by an electrician or gas fitter.
- Avoid overheating. Make sure there is good airflow around electrical equipment.

## LEADS AND CORDS

- Plug in no more than one appliance per wall or multi-board socket.
- Never plug an adaptor or multi-board into another adaptor or multi-board.
- Make sure leads and cords are in good condition and not frayed.
- Never put extension cords under carpets or mats. Don't use them if they are tightly coiled.

## HEATING

- Use the 'heater-metre rule.' Keep furniture, curtains, clothes and children at least one metre from heaters and fireplaces.
- Use a fireguard or spark-guard with open fires.
- Dispose of ashes in a metal bucket with a lid, then douse with water. Ashes can stay hot enough to start a fire for up to five days.

## MATCHES, LIGHTERS AND CANDLES

- Always keep matches and lighters well out of reach of children.
- Use a candle stick holder, never leave lit candles unattended and keep them away from anything flammable.

## KITCHEN & LAUNDRY

- Ensure the clothes dryer is in a well-ventilated location. Clean the lint filter after every use.
- Clean fats and burnt foods from stovetop.
- Clean range hood filters.
- Know how and when to use your fire extinguisher or fire blanket if you have one.
- Never leave cooking unattended.

## ELECTRIC BLANKETS

- Replace electric blankets every five years.
- Replace worn blankets or have an electrician check them.
- Lay electric blankets flat on the bed and ensure the controls or cords are not twisted.
- Roll, don't fold, electric blankets for storage.
- Never leave the electric blanket on when you go to sleep.

