

Tips to Safeguard Your Home From Fire

Each year, approximately 40 people die in Ireland as a result of house fires. However, there are a number of steps you can take to protect your family and to prevent the risk of fire in your home.

- ❑ Install smoke alarms ó at least one on each floor of your home. Keep them dust-free and check them regularly to ensure they are working. (Installing smoke alarms may also entitle you to a discount on your insurance).
- ❑ Make a fire action plan so that everyone in your home knows how to escape if there is a fire.
- ❑ Keep the exits from your home clear. Make sure all your family know where the keys for windows and doors are kept.
- ❑ Be very vigilant when cooking with hot oil and never leave a chip pan unattended.
- ❑ Don't leave candles unattended and make sure they are attached to a solid base.
- ❑ Never leave children alone in a house. Keep matches out of their reach and use child proof socket covers.
- ❑ Don't have an open fire blazing too high and guard open and radiant fires with a safety guard.
- ❑ Ensure that your chimney and flue are cleaned at least once a year.
- ❑ Avoid using adapters. One socket for one plug is a good rule.
- ❑ Check flexes for signs of wear and tear on a regular basis.
- ❑ Get a fully qualified electrician to carry out any electrical work you may require in your home.
- ❑ Don't air clothing on a fireguard or close to a fire or on storage heaters.
- ❑ Keep portable heaters away from curtains and furniture.
- ❑ Don't leave the TV and other appliances on standby. Get into the habit of switching off and unplugging appliances when not in use.
- ❑ Close doors at night before you go to bed, particularly the kitchen and sitting room doors.
- ❑ NEVER smoke in bed.
- ❑ Extra vigilance is required at festive times such as Christmas. If you are installing elaborate outdoor Christmas lights, get a qualified electrician. Unplug internal

and external Christmas lights when you go to bed or before you go away from the house.