

Home Safety Checklist

We went over a lot these points during our safety talk, but below is an expanded list.



Smoke Alarms

- There is one smoke alarm on every level of the home and inside and outside each sleeping area.
- Smoke alarms are tested and cleaned monthly.
- Smoke alarm batteries are changed once a year.
- Smoke alarms are less than 10 years old.

Cooking Safety

- Cooking area is free from items that can catch fire.
- Kitchen stove hood is clean and vented to the outside.
- Pots are not left unattended on the stove.

Electrical & Appliance Safety

- Electrical cords do not run under rugs.
- Electrical cords are not frayed or cracked.
- Circuit-protected, multi-prong adapters are used for additional outlets.
- Large and small appliances are plugged directly into wall outlets.
- Clothes dryer lint filter and venting system are clean. **(We now offer dryer vent cleaning service during the Spring & Summer Months!)**

Candle Safety

- Candles are in sturdy fire-proof containers that won't be tipped over.
- All candles are extinguished before going to bed or leaving the room.
- Children and pets are never left unattended with candles.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Carbon monoxide alarms must be located within 15 feet of bedrooms. You can have one on every other level of your home, if you so choose.
- Carbon monoxide alarms are less than 7 years old.

Smoking Safety

- Family members who smoke only buy fire-safe cigarettes and smoke outside.
- Matches and lighters are secured out of children's sight.
- Ashtrays are large, deep and kept away from items that can catch fire.
- Ashtrays are emptied into a container that will not burn.

Heating Safety

- Chimney and furnace are cleaned and inspected yearly.
- Furniture and other items that can catch fire are at least 3 feet from fireplaces, wall heaters, baseboards, and space heaters.
- Fireplace and barbecue ashes are placed outdoors in a covered metal container at least 3 feet from anything that can catch fire.
- Extension cords are never used with space heaters.
- Heaters are approved by a national testing laboratory and have tip-over shut-off function.

Home Escape Plan

- Have two ways out of each room.
- Know to crawl low to the floor when escaping to avoid toxic smoke.
- Know that once you're out, stay out.
- Know where to meet after the escape.
- Meeting place should be near the front of your home, so firefighters know you are out.
- Practice your fire escape plan.

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Call your local **Fire Department** or **Naperville Chimney Sweeps** for more information or specific questions
More checklist and tips can be found at www.usfa.fema.gov

Safe Way to Light a Fireplace

1. Make sure damper door is open and no wood on the grate.
2. Turn gas valve on for a few seconds, until you hear the gas, then turn the gas valve off.
3. Light a long match, let it burn for a few seconds, then place it in the middle of the log lighter or gas pan.
4. Move away from the front of the fireplace and slowly turn on the gas valve till the match ignites the gas. Then turn the valve to your desired flame height.



5. Remove the gas valve key and place in a safe place.
6. After you preheat the firebox, smoke chamber, and flue for 5 to 10 minutes, you can re-light the match from the flames and bring the match out to the front of the fireplace. Blow out the match and see where the smoke from the match goes. If it pulls into the fireplace, it is safe to put wood in the fireplace because you have a draft. If it goes straight up in front of the fireplace then you need to wait longer for the fireplace and flue to heat up to create the draft.
7. If you do not have ceramic logs or a log lighter, you can use fire starter kindling or fat logs to warm up the flue to create a draft before putting wood or duraflame logs into the fireplace.
8. Try running just your log lighter or ceramic logs for 30-60 minutes once a month to dry out the firebox, smoke chamber and flue tiles. This is good preventive maintenance.

