

Protect your home from fires



Top home fire prevention tips



- Appliances are one of the leading causes of house fires – check your electricals and register them on a national [database](#). This way, if there's a safety recall on an electrical item you own, you'll know about it straightaway and the problem can be sorted by a qualified engineer.
- Extension cables should only be used as a temporary measure - don't overload them and avoid using multi-plugs altogether.
- Fit at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home and place one near your kitchen as a priority. Don't forget to test them frequently.
- Gas-powered appliances, such as your boiler, should be serviced regularly and checked for safety by a Gas Safe registered engineer.
- When using lawn mowers or other electrical equipment in the garden, check the socket you're using has been fitted with a circuit breaker in case you accidentally cut through the electrical cable.



Do

- turn off your appliances when you're not using them
- always keep a bucket of water ready when you're having a barbecue and never leave it unattended until it's completely stopped smoking
- go for flameless candles – but, if using real ones, make sure you keep them away from flammable materials like curtains and soft furnishings

Don't

- let cables from other appliances trail across the cooker
- store anything on top of the microwave
- let fat and grease build up on your cooking appliances



Fireplaces – safety tips:

- Get your chimney cleaned and inspected to make sure it's in good working condition before lighting your fire.
- Use the right kind of fuel - dry wood with a moisture content of less than 20% - and be sure not to overload your grate.
- Always use a fire guard and avoid decorations in the surrounding area. It's also important not to dry clothes close to a fire.
- Make sure the fire is properly put out before you go to bed or leave the house.

