



HOME HAZARD HUNT



*Do you believe that your home is a safe place to be?
Statistics show that most fires, accidents, and injuries occur in the home.*

An important step in family preparedness is the identification of hazards in your home. Once the hazards are identified, it doesn't take much time or effort to make your home a safer place to live.

Getting Started: Using the checklist below, involve the whole family, especially your children, in a home hazard hunt. Remember that anything that can move, break, fall, or burn is a potential hazard. Foresight, imagination, and common sense are the only tools you will need! After identifying what needs to be done, devise a plan to do it.

Kitchen

Yes/No

<input type="checkbox"/>	Wear snug-fitting clothes when cooking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not leave cooking food unattended
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep pan handles turned in while cooking
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep a pan lid nearby in case of fire
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep cooking areas clean and clear of combustibles
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep cords from dangling Ensure outlets near the kitchen sink are GFI (Ground Fault Interrupt) equipped
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep sharp knives out of reach of children

Outside

Yes/No

<input type="checkbox"/>	Clear dry vegetation and rubbish from around the house
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use barbecue grills away from buildings and vegetation
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dispose of barbecue briquettes in a metal container
<input type="checkbox"/>	Maintain a "greenbelt" around rural buildings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check with the fire department before burning debris or using a burn barrel

All Rooms

Yes/No

<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure floor coverings (rugs, carpets) are properly secured to prevent tripping hazards
<input type="checkbox"/>	Separate draw cords on blinds and drapes to reduce strangulation hazards for kids
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure room exits are unobstructed

Smoking and Matches

Yes/No

<input type="checkbox"/>	Store matches and lighters out of reach of children
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use large, deep, non-tip ashtrays
<input type="checkbox"/>	Never smoke when drowsy or in bed
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dispose of ashes and cigarette butts in a metal can at least daily
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check furniture for smoldering cigarettes every night, especially after parties

Electricity

Yes/No

<input type="checkbox"/>	Avoid the use of extension cords (If used, ensure the correct wattage rating)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Plug only one heat producing device into an electrical outlet
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure cords are not placed under rugs
<input type="checkbox"/>	Verify circuits are not overloaded
<input type="checkbox"/>	Replace damaged cords, plugs, sockets
<input type="checkbox"/>	Use bulbs with the correct wattage for lamps and fixtures
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check fuses/circuit breakers for the correct amperage ratings
<input type="checkbox"/>	Do not override or bypass fuses or circuit breakers

Clothes Washer and Dryer

Yes/No

<input type="checkbox"/>	Verify that appliances are properly grounded
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure lint filter is clean and serviceable
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check vent hose and vent line to ensure they are clean and provide unobstructed airflow

Garage/Attic/Shed

Yes/No

		Use gasoline as a motor fuel only and never use or store it inside the home
		Keep only a small quantity of gasoline, if necessary, in an approved container locked in the garage or shed
		Keep flammable liquids such as paints and thinners in their original containers and store on or near the ground and away from sources of heat, sparks, or flame
		Store used oily rags in sealed metal containers Never store combustibles such as newspapers and magazines in your attic

Heating Equipment

Yes/No

		Ensure fireplace inserts and gas/wood stoves comply with local codes
		Clean and inspect chimney annually
		Dispose of ashes in metal container
		Keep clothes, furnishings, and electrical cords at least 12" from wall heaters and 36" from portable heaters
		Service furnace annually
		Set water heater thermostat at 120 F
		Elevate new or replacement gas water heaters at least 18" above the floor

Bathrooms

Yes/No

		Store poisonous cleaning supplies and medicines in "child-proofed" cabinets
		Replace glass bottles with plastic containers
		Ensure all outlets are GFI equipped

Family Preparedness

Yes/No

		Develop an escape plan and practice it regularly
		Ensure windows open easily enough for children to open unassisted, if need, for escape route
		Designate a family meeting place outside
		Have an out-of-state contact for family check after a disaster/emergency
		Store important papers and valuables in a fire proof safe or cabinet
		Maintain proper insurance coverage for your home and its contents (earthquake, flood, renter's, fire)

Fire Extinguisher

Yes/No

		Verify that an all purpose fire extinguisher (Class ABC) is maintained in an accessible location
		Ensure that all occupants know how to use it
		Are additional fire extinguishers kept in the kitchen, garage, basement, and sleeping area?

Smoke Alarms

Yes/No

		Installed properly on every level?
		Tested 1st Tuesday of each month?
		Battery replaced every year? (...unless 10-year battery model)

Earthquake Hazards (All Rooms)

Yes/No

		Bolt heavy, tall, upright furniture to wall studs
		lock or remove rollers on beds, furniture and appliances
		Secure hanging plants and light fixtures with one or more guy wires to prevent swinging into walls or windows and breaking
		Locate beds away from windows and heavy wall-mounted objects
		Secure kitchen and bathroom cabinets with "positive" (self-closing) latches
		Secure items on shelves with quake mats, Velcro TM , low shelf barrier, etc.
		Store heavy and/or breakable items on lower shelves
		Strap water heater to wall studs
		Use flexible connections on gas appliances
		Check chimney for loose bricks and repair as needed
		Check foundation for cracks and repair as needed
		Bolt home to foundation to prevent shifting during an earthquake
		Secure mirrors and pictures to the wall or hang them with heavy wire, looped through eye screws or tongue-in-groove hangers

Practice drills are a great way to help your family plan and remember what to do in case of a disaster or emergency