



Fire protection at home

Fire prevention

Fires at home are usually caused by everyday things.
Here are some ways to prevent fires:



Do not place anything that can catch fire on or near the stove. Do not leave the stove unattended when it is switched on. If you often leave the stove on, get a 'stove guard' that automatically switches off the stove to prevent fire.



Never throw hot ashes directly into the rubbish bin. Ashes, coal and similar material must be stored in a metal container with a lid. Place the metal container outdoors on a fireproof surface, such as stone slabs.



Do not place lit candles near anything that can catch fire. Put out any candles before leaving the room, and never leave a lit candle unattended.



Charge on hard surfaces using a designated, CE-marked charger. Do not charge your mobile phone or computer in bed or similar. Replace electrical equipment that is visibly damaged, smells burnt or sounds strange.



If possible, charge batteries for small electric vehicles in a designated area. If you must charge batteries inside of your home, don't leave them unattended. Avoid charging in hallways, which are escape routes.



Stairwells and other escape routes, such as evacuation corridors, must be clear of objects that can catch fire, such as newspapers, cardboard boxes or prams. Keep doors to basements and attics closed.

Checklist!

- ✓ Never smoke in bed or somewhere else where you risk falling asleep.
- ✓ Wet the contents of the ashtray before emptying.
- ✓ Make sure children cannot get hold of matches or lighters.

Protect yourself against fire

Smoke detectors save lives

Smoke detectors quickly sound an alarm when a fire starts. This gives you time to put out the fire or, if necessary, escape. Ensure that you have enough smoke detectors and test them regularly to make sure they work.



Smoke detectors must be installed on the ceiling and according to the manufacturer's instructions.



Test your smoke detector monthly by pressing the test button.



Replace the battery if the smoke detector does not work when tested or if it beeps frequently.

How to use a fire extinguisher



Pull the pin straight out.



Aim the nozzle at the base of the flames. Approach the fire and crouch if necessary.



Squeeze the handle. If possible, approach the fire from various angles for better access.



Have fire-extinguishing equipment at home

A 6kg powder fire extinguisher is most useful. Place your fire extinguisher near an exit. A fire blanket is also useful. This can be draped over fires to extinguish them.

✓ Rescue ✓ Warn ✓ Call 112 ✓ Extinguish

Taking the right steps can save lives

1. Rescue. 2. Warn. 3. Call 112. 4. Extinguish.



However, the best order to follow may depend on the situation. If there are several of you, you can work together.



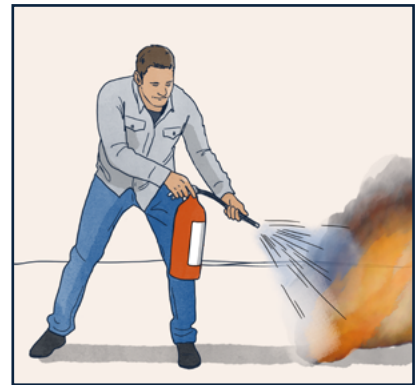
Rescue others without putting yourself in danger.



Warn others who may be in danger.



Report the fire to emergency services - call 112. Describe what has happened, whether anyone is injured, where help is needed and identify yourself.



Extinguish the fire if you can do so safely.

Extinguish the fire



Fire in a saucepan or frying pan: Use the lid or a fire blanket to smother the fire. Never use water. Water causes the flames to spread.



Fire in clothing: Try to get the person down on the floor. Smother the fire with a fire blanket or whatever is at hand. Cover the head first, then move towards the feet.



Electrical appliances on fire: First, unplug the appliance. Smother the fire with a fire blanket or water. With a powder extinguisher, you can extinguish the fire immediately, without unplugging the appliance.

Close the door – smoke kills

Confine the fire

First, make sure that everyone has escaped. Then close the door to the room or apartment that is on fire. A closed door limits the spread of fire.



If you cannot extinguish the fire safely, get out.



Close the door to the room that is on fire.

Never enter a smoke-filled stairwell

An apartment door normally resists fire for about 30 minutes. Never enter a smoke-filled stairwell. Never use the elevator in a fire.



If there is a fire somewhere else in the building and smoke fills the stairwell, stay in your apartment.



Keep the door closed. Report the fire to emergency services – call 112.



Emergency services will help you escape, if necessary.

Neighbours helping neighbours



When emergencies or serious accidents occur, neighbours who know and trust each other can better work together. Close-knit communities are safer.