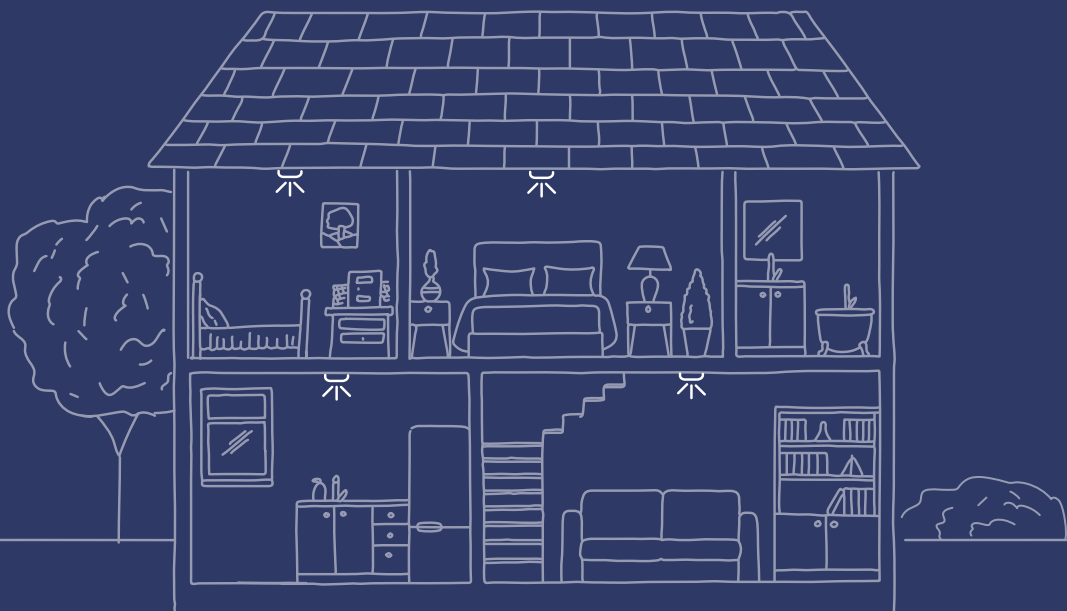




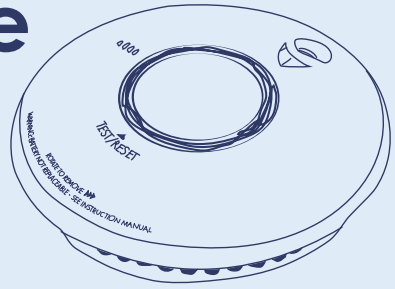
West Yorkshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Essential Fire Safety Advice for the Home

Please follow this advice to help you stay safe from fire in your home!



The importance of smoke detection



Smoke detectors provide early warnings, giving you precious time to escape a fire. Without a working smoke detector, you are ten times more likely to die in a fire. Stay safe by following these tips:

- Install at least one smoke detector on every level of your home.
- Test your detectors weekly; use a broom handle or walking stick if you cannot reach.
- If your detector starts to emit a regular 'chirp', replace the battery or detector immediately.
- Clean your detectors regularly using a vacuum cleaner or a feather duster to remove dust.
- Offer to test the smoke detectors of older family members or neighbours who may need help to do so.
- Do not to ignore a sounding smoke detector- even if it isn't yours. Call 999 immediately if you suspect a fire.

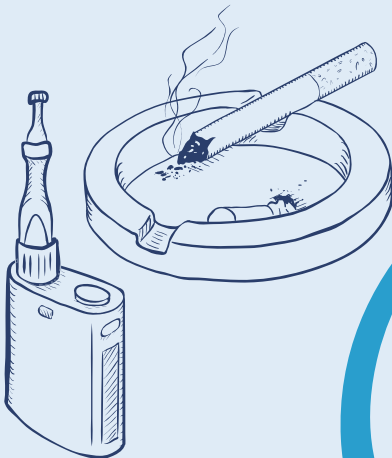
For more information about smoke detectors visit

westyorksfire.gov.uk

Smoking and e-cigarettes

Nearly a quarter of all fatal fires are smoking-related, with over half caused by dropped cigarettes or careless smoking. Stay safe by following these tips:

- Always ensure cigarettes are fully extinguished. Put it out, right out.
- Use proper ashtrays - never flick a cigarette directly into a bin, out of a window, or into a garden.
- Keep cigarettes, matches, and lighters away from children.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Avoid smoking when taking medication that causes drowsiness, drinking alcohol or using recreational drugs.
- Do not leave e-cigarettes to charge overnight, and only use the charger and parts that were originally supplied.
- Do not carry loose spare batteries in your pocket.
- Don't use e-cigarettes or their batteries if they are damaged or swollen.



Dispose of e-cigarette batteries and disposable e-cigarettes safely, i.e., at the local authority recycling centre or a collection point in a supermarket.

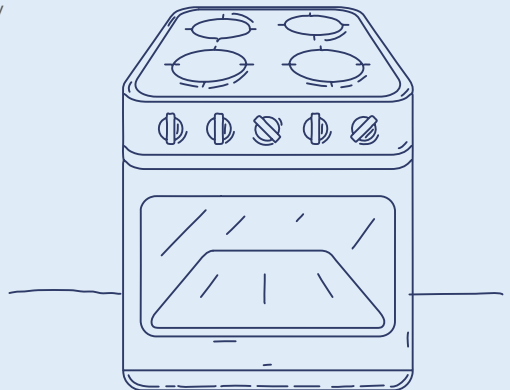


Staying safe in the kitchen



Almost half of all fires attended by WYFRS begin in the kitchen. Stay safe in the kitchen by following these tips:

- Never leave cooking unattended. Turn off your cooker if you have to leave the kitchen.
- Avoid cooking if you have been drinking alcohol, using recreational drugs or taking medication that makes you drowsy.
- Take extra care if you are wearing loose clothing while cooking, as it can easily catch fire. Consider wearing an apron.
- Keep tea towels, cloths and other flammable materials away from your cooker.
- Keep your oven, hob, extractor hood and grill clean; a build-up of fat and grease can easily ignite.
- Never use your cooker as a storage area.
- Don't overfill your chip pan; ensure it's no more than a third full of oil when in use.
- Take care when cooking with hot oil – it sets alight easily. Never throw water on a pan containing hot oil.
- Unplug appliances after use, especially those with 'soft touch' switches like air fryers.



Using electrical appliances safely

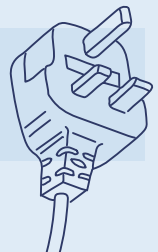
Over a third of household fires attended are due to the misuse of electrical equipment or appliance leads.

Follow these tips to stay safe:

- Use one plug per socket and avoid overloading extension leads.
- Make sure appliances have a British or European safety mark and always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Do not use faulty appliances and seek professional help for repairs.
- Ensure appliances are well ventilated. Do not block or cover their ventilation openings.
- Keep your consumer unit (fuse box) up to date and checked by a qualified electrician.
- Keep portable heaters away from curtains, clothing, and furniture. Always switch them off before bed.
- Use laptops on hard, flat surfaces to prevent overheating.
- Keep electrical appliances clean, dust-free and in good working order.
- Regularly check electric blankets for damage and switch them off before going to sleep unless designed for safe all-night use.
- Only use genuine chargers and cables for your mobile devices.



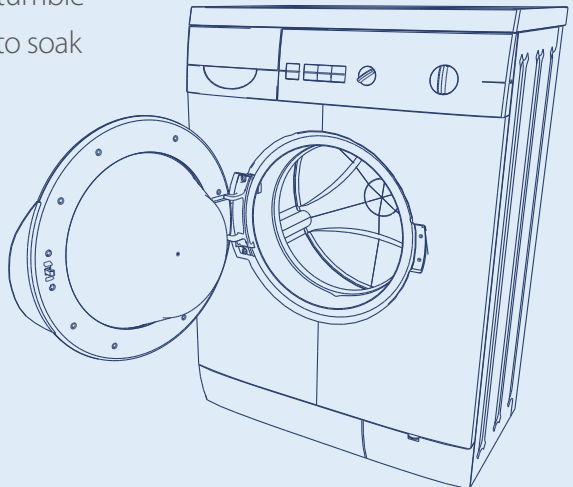
Visit [electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk](https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk) for more advice.



Using your tumble dryer safely

The misuse of tumble dryers causes at least one fire every day. To lower the risk of this happening in your home, follow these tips:

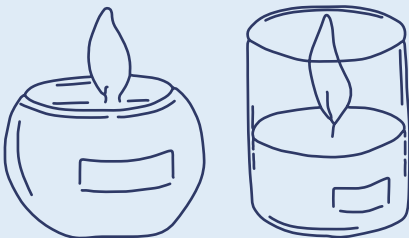
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Clean the filter after every use – the build-up of fluff and lint can cause a fire.
- Ensure your tumble dryer has its own 13 amp mains plug socket.
- Never overload your tumble dryer as this can cause overheating.
- Do not place items in your tumble dryer that have been used to soak up flammable liquids.
- Don't over-dry your clothes - set an appropriate drying time.
- Never leave your tumble dryer running when you leave the house or go to bed.
- If you smell burning or your clothes feel very hot at the end of the cycle, have your appliance checked out.
- Keep your tumble dryer well ventilated.



Using candles safely

Candles add to the ambience in your home but when used unsafely they can cause a fire:

- Use sturdy, heat-resistant holders and place candles on stable surfaces.
- Never burn several candles close together.
- Keep candles away from soft furnishings and aerosols to prevent fire hazards.
- Don't place candles on plastic surfaces, such as the side of your bath or your TV.
- Never leave children or pets alone in a room with lit candles.
- Avoid placing candles on shelves; the heat can burn or damage nearby items.
- Dispose of used matches and paper properly to prevent a fire. Never leave them in candle wax.
- Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations on burn time and use.



Extinguish candles, incense, and burners before you leave a room or go to bed.

Establish a bedtime routine



Close all internal doors fully to help prevent the spread of smoke and fire.



Turn off electrical appliances like ovens, washing machines, and dishwashers.



Make sure candles and cigarettes are fully extinguished.



Keep your door and window keys in an easily accessible place.



Keep escape routes clear and do not store or charge electrical appliances, such as e-bikes, on these routes.



Ensure you have easy access to a working telephone.

Making an escape plan

- 1 Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows how to escape.
- 2 Make sure exits are kept clear.
- 3 Ensure you have easy access to a phone at all times.
- 4 Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them easily.
- 5 Regularly review your plan in case your ability to escape or your property layout changes.

If your clothes catch fire

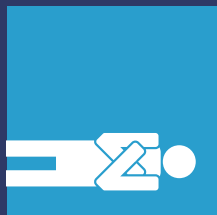
Remember:



STOP moving.



DROP to the ground or floor.



ROLL to put out the fire.



You should lie down and roll around.



Don't run around as you will make the flames worse.

If possible, smother the flames with a heavy material such as a coat or a blanket.



What to do if there is a fire



Keep calm and act quickly, get everyone out as soon as possible.



Close doors behind you when making your escape, if it is safe to do so.



Before you open a door, check if it's warm. If it is, don't open it – fire may be on the other side .



If there's smoke, keep low where the air is clearer.



Don't waste time investigating what's happened or rescuing valuables.



Don't tackle the fire yourself.

Get out, stay out, call 999





What to do if you can't get out



If safe to do so, gather everyone into one room, ideally with a window and a phone.



Put bedding around the bottom of the door to block out the smoke.



Call **999** - an operator will offer survival advice while you are on the phone.



If you do not have access to a phone, open the window and shout "HELP FIRE".



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Version 1



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