



Home Fire Safety Self-Inspection Checklist

Uxbridge Fire Department
17 Bascom street, Uxbridge, ON, L9P 1J3
(905) 852-3393 <http://town.uxbridge.on.ca/fire>

Exterior

- House numbers visible from the street
- Trim trees away from chimney
- Remove needles and leaves from roof and rain gutters
- Trim trees and hedges so a fire truck can navigate your driveway, cut low overhanging branches
- Have someone qualified trim trees away from electrical wires

Heating Equipment Safety

- Have chimney inspected and cleaned annually
- Keep portable space heaters at least 1 meter away from combustibles
- Wood burning stove installed in conformance with all applicable codes
- Fireplace equipped with close fitting screen
- Dispose of ashes in metal container
- Install spark arrestor on chimney cap
- Clean lint from clothes dryer & insure vent not blocked
- Keep combustibles away from water heater

Electrical

- Inspect electrical cords and appliances for damage
- Do not overload electrical circuits
- Use extension cords only as a temporary measure – have additional outlets installed by a qualified electrician
- Do not tack cords to walls or run them under rugs

Fuel Safety and Hazardous Material

- Store hazardous materials in approved containers with tight fitting lids and correct labels
 - Store hazardous materials away from heat sources
 - Store and use hazardous materials in well ventilated areas away from children, sparks and heat
 - Put oily rags in metal containers with tight fitting lids
 - Dispose of and recycle hazardous materials properly
- For information see:

Cooking

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Keep stove clean and free of grease
- When cooking avoid wearing clothing with long loose fitting sleeves
- Turn pot handles inward to avoid burn injuries
- Keep combustible items such as paper towels, tea towels, curtains etc. away from the stove
- Keep BBQs away from the house when in use
- Dispose of coals and ashes in a metal container

Smoking Materials and Candles

- Never leave lit cigarettes or candles unattended
- Empty ashtrays into noncombustible containers only
- Never smoke in bed
- Store matches and lighters out of reach of children
- Use candles in sturdy noncombustible containers that fully enclose the flame

Smoke Alarms & Carbon Monoxide (CO) Detectors

- At least one smoke/CO alarm on every level of the house
- Smoke/CO alarms tested monthly
- Smoke/CO alarms vacuumed every six months
- Batteries change annually
- Smoke alarms older than ten years replaced with new ones
- CO detector sensor unit changed every two years or as per manufacturer instructions

Fire Extinguishers

- Purchase adequate multipurpose (ABC) fire extinguishers – minimum one for the kitchen and one for the furnace room or near the woodstove/fireplace
- Install near the entrance/exit so that you don't have to pass the fire to get the extinguisher
- Inspect extinguishers annually
- Learn how to use it...remember **P.A.S.S**: **P**ull the pin, **A**im, **S**queeze the lever, **S**weep at the base of the fire

Fire Escape Planning

- Develop a fire escape plan – the plan should include the following:
 - Crawling low under smoke and heat
 - Two exits out of each area of your house
 - A meeting place outside
- Practice the plan with the family at least twice a year
- Teach the family how to:
 - Dial 9-1-1 in an emergency (give your name, location and type of emergency)
 - Stop, Drop, and Roll if clothes catch on fire

In spite of taking the above precautions fire may still strike your home; remember these important points:

- Alert everyone in the house/apartment and follow your escape plan.
- **Never go back inside for any reason.**
- Call the fire department as soon as possible from a safe location.
- Meet our fire fighters and tell them of any people or pets trapped inside.