

# Home Fire Safety Checklist

**Score a fire safety home run — do a home fire safety inspection!**

Striking out fire in your home requires a little homework. Take about 20 minutes to inspect your home. As you go from room to room, answer the questions below. For each question you answer “yes” to, give yourself a point. When you’re finished, add up the points to find out your score. **Kids, ask a grown-up to help you complete this checklist!**

## First Base - Cooking Safety

- Yes  No Does a grown-up always stay in the kitchen when food is cooking on the stove?
- Yes  No Are stove tops and counters clean and uncluttered?
- Yes  No Are there pot holders within easy reach of the stove?
- Yes  No Are pot handles turned inward so they can’t be bumped?
- Yes  No Are curtains and other things that can burn well away from the stove?
- Yes  No Is there a “kid-free” zone of three feet (one metre) around the stove when grown-ups are cooking?

## Second Base - Heating Safety

- Yes  No Are portable space heaters always turned off when adults leave the room or go to sleep?
- Yes  No If space heaters are used in your home, are they at least three feet (one metre) away from anything else that can burn, including people, furniture, and pets?
- Yes  No Does your fireplace have a sturdy screen to catch sparks?
- Yes  No Has your chimney been inspected and cleaned during the past year?
- Yes  No Has your furnace been serviced by a professional in the past year?
- Yes  No Are propane tanks and other fuels stored outside your home?

## Third Base - Electrical Safety

- Yes  No Are extension cords used safely? (Are they not under carpets or across doorways?)
- Yes  No Are electrical cords in good condition, without cracks or frayed areas? (A grown-up should unplug lamps and appliances before inspecting the cords.)
- Yes  No Are kitchen appliances – such as the coffee-maker, toaster oven, and microwave – plugged into separate receptacle outlets?

## Home Plate - Smoke Alarms/ Home Fire Escape

- Yes  No Does your home have smoke alarms on every level, including the basement, and outside each sleeping area?
- Yes  No Are the batteries working in all your smoke alarms? (A grown-up should help by pushing the test button to find out.)
- Yes  No Are all the exits in your home clear of furniture, toys, and clutter?
- Yes  No Does your family have a home fire escape plan that includes two exits, usually a door and a window, from each room?
- Yes  No Has your family picked a safe place to meet outside after you exit your home?

Yes  No Have you and your family practiced a home fire drill within the last six months? (Why not do one tonight?)

Yes  No Do you know the fire department's emergency phone number (which should be called from a neighbor's or nearby phone once you get outside)?

## What's Your Fire Safety Batting Average?



If you answered "yes" to all of the checklist questions above, congratulations! You scored a fire safety home run!



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If you answered "yes" to 15 to 20 questions, you've made it to third base. Just make a few adjustments, and you'll easily hit a fire safety home run.



If you answered "yes" to 10 to 14 questions, you've hit a double. You're going in the right direction, but you've got some work to do before you get to home plate.



If you answered "yes" to fewer than 10 questions, you've reached first base, but you need to make many changes around your home in order to reach home plate.

For all questions to which you answered "no," make sure your family takes the steps needed to make them a "yes" so you can all score a fire safety home run!



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