



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

COST OF LIVING

Tips to stay fire safe
Wales



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
De Cymru
South Wales
Fire and Rescue Service



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Canolbarth a Gorllewin Cymru
Mid and West Wales
Fire and Rescue Service



Gwasanaeth Tân ac Achub
Fire and Rescue Service

Cost of Living

Home Fire Safety Advice

This brochure has some practical tips that you can follow, to protect yourselves and others from accidental fires and carbon monoxide poisoning, as you look to keep warm and cut energy use, during this cost of living rise. Please follow these tips!

Protect your home with smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) alarms

You are around nine times more likely to die in a fire in the home if you do not have any working smoke alarms.

Install at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home.



Test them weekly

Smoke alarms

- Test your smoke alarms weekly.
- Heat alarms can be installed in kitchens.

If you don't have any working smoke alarms, contact your local fire and rescue service who may be able to provide them for you.

Plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows what to do if your smoke alarm goes off.



CO alarms

CO alarms can protect against this poisonous, colourless and odourless gas, produced by appliances which burn gas, wood, oil or coal. CO can make you seriously ill and can be fatal.

Book a gas safety check now, with a Gas Safe registered engineer, to prevent CO poisoning, gas leaks and explosions in your home. Homeowners - check with your energy provider to see if you are eligible for a free annual check through their Priority Services Register.

If you are a tenant, your landlord must arrange an annual gas safety check by a Gas Safe registered engineer for gas supply, pipes and any appliances that are provided as part of your tenancy.



If you rent your home your landlord must ensure your home is equipped with smoke alarms. They must also make sure a carbon monoxide alarm is equipped in any room used as living accommodation which contains a fixed combustion appliance (excluding gas cookers).

Cigarettes

Smoking is the number one cause of accidental fire deaths in the UK. Reduce the risk by attempting to quit, using NHS support if you need it.

Counterfeit and illegal cigarettes can increase fire risk. If you are not ready to quit, only buy legal cigarettes.



Heating your home

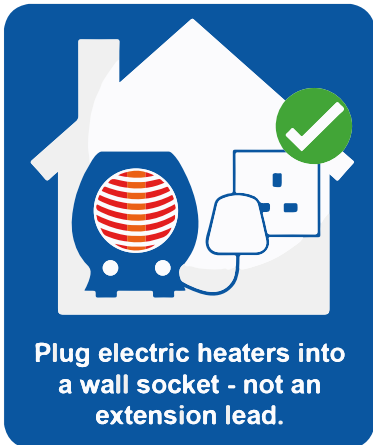
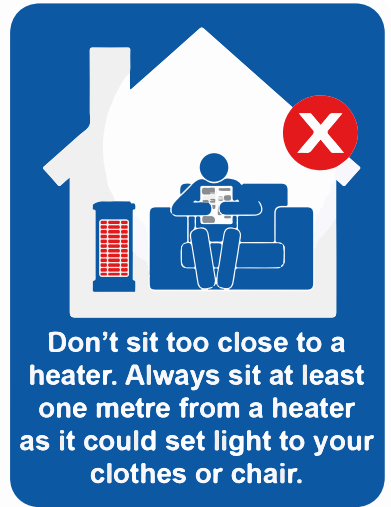
To save money, consider heating the person, and not the whole home.

Using portable heaters

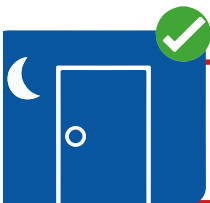
- Always read the instructions and understand how to use appliances safely, checking they're in good working order and not subject to a safety notice or product recall.



www.gov.uk/guidance/product-recalls-and-alerts



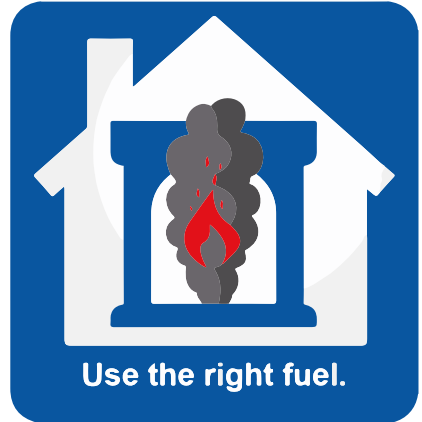
- Don't place portable heaters where they will block your escape route or where they might be knocked over.
- Keep heaters away from flammable materials such as paper, curtains, furniture and bedding.
- Unplug heaters when you go out or go to bed.
- Only use gas or paraffin heaters in well-ventilated areas, having checked that they are suitable for indoor use. Make sure a CO alarm is installed in the same room.



Close internal doors at night. It will help keep your rooms warm and reduce fire and smoke spread if a fire starts.

Using open fires and woodburning stoves

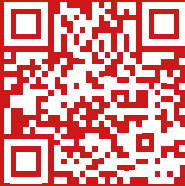
- Always use a fire guard with an open fire.
- Make sure the fire is out properly before you go to bed.
- Get flues and chimneys checked and swept to prevent chimney fires and CO poisoning.
- Use the correct fuel for your fire. Burning household waste or material such as treated wood can cause toxic fumes in the home and is a fire risk.
- Store fuel for open fires and wood-burning stoves at a safe distance away from fire.
- Fit a CO alarm in all rooms with fuel burning appliances or ensure your landlord has provided CO alarms as required by regulations.





Electrics

Avoid running white goods and charging devices when you are asleep - you will have less time to react if a fire starts. Check your tariff - most homes don't get cheaper electricity at night.



Register your new and older electrical products - you will be informed if there is a problem

www.registermyappliance.org.uk

- Don't overload plug sockets. Appliances such as washing machines and electric heaters should be plugged directly into a wall socket as they are high powered.
- If you think there might be a problem with an appliance don't risk it. Unplug it and contact the retailer, manufacturer.
- Always buy electrical products from reputable retailers and manufacturers - fake, counterfeit and substandard products are a fire risk.
- When charging electrical goods, follow the manufacturer's instructions and look for the CE mark that indicates chargers comply with European safety standards.



Always check for safety markings on electrical items.



Electric blankets

- Store electric blankets flat, rolled up or loosely folded to prevent damaging the internal wiring.
- Unplug blankets before you get into bed unless it has a thermostat control for safe all-night use.
- Do not buy second hand blankets - they may not meet current safety standards.
- Check regularly for wear and tear and don't use if wires are visible or poking through the fabric.
- Don't use a blanket that has scorch marks or discolouration or if the control makes a buzzing sound when switched on.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and use it as intended.
- Liquids and electric blankets don't mix. Do not use a hot water bottle or bring drinks nearby while you are using your blanket.

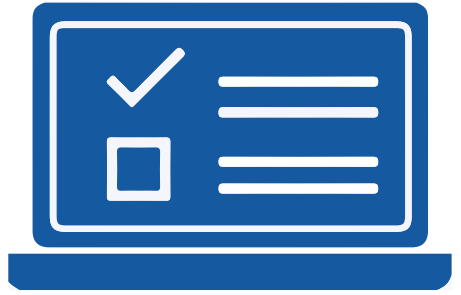


Candles

Candles aren't an efficient way of heating a room and be very careful if using them for lighting. Around 30 per cent of fires started by candles and attended by fire and rescue services result in death or injury.

- Always make sure candles are in a suitable holder and away from anything flammable.
- Do not burn several candles close together, this might cause the flame to flare.
- Put out candles when you leave the room, and make sure they're out completely at night.
- Children and pets shouldn't be left alone with lit candles.
- Using LED candles, torches or battery lights are a brighter and safer alternative.

Complete a FREE Online Safe and Well Check request.



If you don't have working smoke alarms in your property, or would like fire safety advice, please contact:



North Wales Fire and Rescue Service

Freephone 0800 169 1234 (text 07507303678)

www.northwalesfire.gov.wales

You can also complete one for a neighbour, friend or relative who may need help.

Remember,
in the event of a fire...
GET OUT, STAY OUT
AND CALL 999



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