

# Protect your home from fire



Protect your home and the things you love with our guide to fire prevention.

## Electrical appliances

Every year, over half of accidental domestic fires in the UK are caused by electricity. Most of these are caused by electrical products, either through misuse or faults.

- Regularly check and register your electrical appliances on a national database to ensure you're notified in case of a safety recall on your item.
- Extension cables should only be used as a temporary measure - don't overload them and avoid using multi-plugs.
- Fit at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home, prioritising your kitchen. Remember to test them frequently.
- When using electrical equipment in the garden, check the sockets you're using have been fitted with a circuit breaker in case you accidentally cut through the cable.

- Gas-powered appliances, such as your boiler, should be serviced regularly and checked for safety by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

## Do you have a fireplace?

- Get your chimney cleaned and inspected to make sure it's in good working condition before lighting your fire.
- Use the right kind of fuel - dry wood with a moisture content of less than 20% - and be sure not to overload your grate.
- Always use a fire guard and avoid decorations in the surrounding area. It's also important not to dry clothes close to the fire.
- Make sure the fire is completely put out before you go to bed or leave the house.



## Do

- ✓ Turn off your appliances when you're not using them.
- ✓ Always keep a bucket of water ready when you're having a barbecue and never leave it unattended. When you're ready to store it, check the barbecue has completely cooled down.
- ✓ Opt for flameless candles where possible. And if you're using real ones, make sure you keep them away from flammable materials like curtains and soft furnishing.

## Don't

- ✗ Let cables from other appliances trail across the cooker.
- ✗ Store anything on top of the microwave.
- ✗ Let fat and grease build up on cooking appliances.