



Maintaining the Home

***Is Your Home
Safe From
Fire Hazards?***

Maintaining the Home: Is Your Home Safe From Fire Hazards?

Each year in the US, about 12,000 children, 14 years of age and under, are injured in residential fires. Preschool children die in fires at twice the national rate.

It is estimated that a home fire occurs every 66 seconds nationally. Ninety percent of fire deaths involving children occur in homes without working smoke alarms. An estimated 92 percent of American homes contain smoke alarms, but about 1/3 of them don't work or are missing charged batteries.

To protect your family, you should:

- Have a smoke alarm near, or inside bedrooms and on every floor or level of your home. Test the alarms once a month and change the batteries once a year. New 10-year detectors, which use lithium batteries, cost about \$5 to \$30 and can be found at most hardware and discount stores.
- Practice different ways to get out of the house during a fire and agree on a safe place to meet outside.
- Do not smoke inside your home.
- Make sure everyone in your family knows the "Stop, Drop, and Roll" procedure in case their clothes catch on fire.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach from children.

For More Information:

Call the US Consumer Product Safety Commission's hotline at 1-800-638-2772 TDD: 1-800-638-8270, or visit their Web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov>.

This material was adapted from publications produced by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD publications can be found on the Web at <http://www.hud.gov/>.

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This resource is one in a series on Maintaining the Home which include:

Interior Maintenance

Preventive Home Maintenance Checkup
Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs
Selection and Use of Home Cleaning Products
Discovering the Secrets of Successful Storage

Heating

Furnace Care
Fireplace and Chimney Care

Cooling

Evaporative Cooler
Air Conditioner
Ceiling Fans

Plumbing

Fixing Plugged Sink Drains
How to Unclog a Toilet
Repairing Dripping Faucets

Electrical

How to Set or Reset a Circuit Breaker
How to Replace a Fuse

Appliances

How to Buy an Energy Efficient Home Appliance
Choosing a Water Heater

Maintenance:

Dishwasher Care and Dishwasher Cleaning
Dryer Care and Dryer Cleaning
Freezer Care and Freezer Cleaning
Garbage Disposal Care and Cleaning
Range and Oven Care and Range Cleaning
Refrigerator Care and Refrigerator Cleaning
Small Electrical Appliance Care and Cleaning
Washer Care and Cleaning

Flooring

Buying new carpet
Carpet Care and Cleaning
Wood Floors Care and Cleaning
Ceramic Tile Floors Care and Cleaning
Vinyl Floor Coverings Care and Cleaning

Walls

Selecting and Applying Paint
Wallpaper Selection and Cleaning
Repairing Walls

Furniture

Furnishing Your New Home: Color and Design
Selecting Fabric For Home Furnishings

Exterior Maintenance

Home Exterior

Foundations, Basements and Yards
Exterior Walls, Windows, and Doors

Roof

A Guide To Roofs
Roof Maintenance

Landscaping and Lawn Care

Principles of Xeriscape
Watering Your Lawn

Home Safety

Child-Proofing Your Home
Is Your Home Safe From Fire Hazards?
Smoke Alarms Save Lives
Carbon Monoxide Alarms
Are Your Children Safe From Poisons?
Protecting Yourself Against Burglary

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Conservation

Weatherize Your Home
Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet
How to Stop Air Leaks Around Windows
Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling
Indoor Water Conservation Tips
Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

Environment Issues

Green Building
Reduce-Reuse-Recycle: Alternatives for Waste Management
Create a home recycling center
Healthy Indoor Air for New Mexico Homes
Dealing with Mold
Household Hazardous Waste
Hazardous Household Substances: Alternatives That Are Relatively Free of Toxic Effects
Radon

Pest Control

Cockroaches and Their Control
Southwest Insects

Accessible Living

Update your home for a lifetime of living
Vision Loss & Hearing Loss
Hand Dexterity, Strength and Range of Motion
Cognitive Difficulties
Mobility Impairments, Balance and Coordination

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