



## WINTER HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

<p><b>Install &amp; Check Smoke Alarms</b></p>	<p>Test your smoke alarms and make sure they all working and if not fix or replace them, using an electrician for 240-volt smoke alarm replacements. Just remember:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smoke alarms need to comply with Australian standards.</li> <li>• Batteries must be changed annually or when they fail.</li> <li>• Test alarms monthly to check they're working by pressing the test button.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Electrical Safety Switch</b></p>	<p>Safety switches detect broken appliances and automatically turn off the power to prevent fires and injury or death by electrocution.</p> <p>Have an electrician check that you have safety switches, ask the landlord and have them tested before winter.</p>
<p><b>Escape Plans</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan for and practice evacuation from alternate routes.</li> <li>• In the event of fire contact triple zero and raise the alarm as soon as possible after escaping by calling emergency service, alerting a neighbour or passer-by.</li> <li>• Select a suitable and safe assembly point and practice getting to it.</li> <li>• Have a ladder handy for two-storey homes.</li> <li>• Practice evacuation from time to time.</li> <li>• You can blindfold small children and turn the practice into a bit of fun while implanting the escape routine in their mind.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Candles &amp; Incense Burners</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Always ensure you can SEE lit candles.</li> <li>• Don't place candles near curtains or anything flammable.</li> <li>• Always use candle holders and ensure they won't fall over.</li> <li>• Extinguish when leaving the room or going to bed.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Cooking</b></p>	<p>Keep an eye on the cooking process as distractions lead to a lot of fires in kitchens.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't leave your cooking unattended.</li> <li>• Wear tight-fitted sleeves, so they don't catch fire from the stove.</li> <li>• Turn handles away from your body.</li> <li>• Keep flammable items away from heat sources.</li> <li>• Keep a fire blanket and extinguisher in your kitchen, but away from the cooktop.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Gas Heating</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the heater on a stable well-ventilated surface.</li> <li>• Keep the heater clear from overhead coverings such as sun shades when using outdoors.</li> <li>• Always check fittings and hose for tight connection or damage.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Heat Bags</b></p>	<p>Avoid heating heat bags for more than the maximum time of 3 minutes. Recommended heat time is 2 to 3 minutes maximum. When heating wheat bags up in the microwave insert a glass of water which will assist in keeping the grain inside the bag moist, thus helping to reduce the risk of combustion.</p>
<p><b>Electric Blankets</b></p>	<p>To minimise the use of your electric blanket to the hours of 7-9pm or 10pm install and set a power timer. This will avoid the blanket being kept on during the night and day.</p>
<p><b>Clothes Dryers</b></p>	<p>Don't forget to also check and clean clothes dryer lint filters.</p>