# WINTER HOME FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

| Install & Check Smoke Alarms | 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:  
• Smoke alarms need to comply with Australian standards.  
• Batteries must be changed annually or when they fail.  
• Test alarms monthly to check they’re working by pressing the test button. |
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| Electrical Safety Switch | Safety switches detect broken appliances and automatically turn off the power to prevent fires and injury or death by electrocution.  
Have an electrician check that you have safety switches, ask the landlord and have them tested before winter. |
| Escape Plans | • Plan for and practice evacuation from alternate routes.  
• 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.  
• Select a suitable and safe assembly point and practice getting to it.  
• Have a ladder handy for two-storey homes.  
• Practice evacuation from time to time.  
• You can blindfold small children and turn the practice into a bit of fun while implanting the escape routine in their mind. |
| Candles & Incense Burners | • Always ensure you can SEE lit candles.  
• Don’t place candles near curtains or anything flammable.  
• Always use candle holders and ensure they won’t fall over.  
• Extinguish when leaving the room or going to bed. |
| Cooking | Keep an eye on the cooking process as distractions lead to a lot of fires in kitchens.  
• Don’t leave your cooking unattended.  
• Wear tight-fitted sleeves, so they don’t catch fire from the stove.  
• Turn handles away from your body.  
• Keep flammable items away from heat sources.  
• Keep a fire blanket and extinguisher in your kitchen, but away from the cooktop. |
| Gas Heating | • Keep the heater on a stable well-ventilated surface.  
• Keep the heater clear from overhead coverings such as sun shades when using outdoors.  
• Always check fittings and hose for tight connection or damage. |
| Heat Bags | 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. |
| Electric Blankets | 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. |
| Clothes Dryers | Don't forget to also check and clean clothes dryer lint filters. |