

Candles

- Do not use candles in your home if you don't have a large clear space away from items that could catch fire.

If you or a family member has serious hoarding issues please contact Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service for a **free Home Fire Safety Visit**.

A visit involves a fire and rescue service employee visiting your home to give advice and guidance, without judgement or embarrassment.

They can help with the following home fire safety needs:

- fit a smoke detector where one is not already present
- provide advice about potential hazards in the home
- talk through an escape plan for your property
- provide additional safety items (subject to criteria).

The advice we offer is impartial and independent. Your details will not be shared with any other support agencies without your consent.

In the event of a fire

Get out

Stay out

Call 999

Never be tempted to stop and collect things on your way out or to go back in.



For a **free Home Fire Safety Check**

Contact us

☎ 0800 05 02 999

@ firekills@dsfire.gov.uk

🌐 www.dsfire.gov.uk

For further information please contact

🌐 <http://www.helpforhoarders.co.uk>

To request any information in this document in an alternative format or language please call **0800 731 1822** or email firesafety@dsfire.gov.uk



DEVON &
SOMERSET
FIRE & RESCUE SERVICE

Keep your home safe



Fire risk and storing your belongings safely

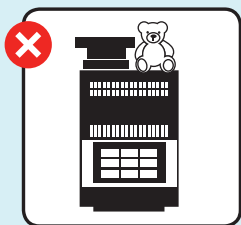


20% of fire deaths are connected to poor house keeping. You are at greater risk from fire and falls if your possessions make corridors narrow and block doorways.

Top tips for improving safety

Smoke alarms and escape routes

- Test your smoke alarm **weekly** to ensure it's working. Make an **annual** date to change it's batteries unless it has 10 year batteries.
- Your escape route and doorways need to be clear of belongings and always accessible. In the event of a fire this will allow you and your family to escape or for firefighters to reach you.
- Make an escape plan for everyone in your home and practise it.
- Make sure that your belongings aren't unstable and stacked so high they could fall over. In the event of a fire you could be injured or have your escape route blocked if things fall over.



Cooking

- Cooking is a common cause of fire so ensure you keep the cooking area clear.

Heating and electrics

- Secure portable heaters up against a wall so that they don't fall over. Keep them away from anything that could catch fire.
- Don't place items on top of electrical equipment, cables or lamps.

Cylinders

- Cylinders are a serious fire hazard and shouldn't be kept in your home. If you have a cylinder for medical reasons keep it upright and store spare cylinders outdoors if possible.
- Never store cylinders in basements, under the stairs or in cupboards with electric meters.

Smoking

- It's safer to smoke outside. If you do smoke inside use a proper ashtray that won't tip over and never leave your cigarette unattended.

Dealing with paperwork

- Newspapers and mail are particularly flammable and need to be dealt with on a daily basis. Recycle newspapers and post as soon as it is finished with. In the event of a fire they would cause it to spread rapidly.

Maintaining your property

- Make sure you can maintain your property by keeping clear access to boilers and radiators.
- A large amount of possessions in your home can weaken floors making your property unsafe. Make sure your belongings are stored safely and aren't so heavy that the structure of your property is damaged.