

PREVENT KITCHEN FIRES

4 in 10 home fires start in the kitchen.

The kitchen is a vital room to any house. It provides a place for people to gather and prepare meals. It is also the room where most house fires start. Cooking fires are by far the leading cause of residential fires. One-third of all structure fires begin in the kitchen. These fires result in 300 deaths, 500 injuries and over \$300 million in damages each year.

Leaving cooking unattended is the major reason kitchen fires ignite. This means, that the majority of kitchen fires are 100% preventable. By maintaining appliances, cleaning workspaces, keeping emergency tools at hand and properly observing cooking you will be able to avoid a kitchen fire tragedy striking your home.



Kids and Pets

Kitchens are not a place for children and animals. Small children and pets can become tripping hazards, or can knock over items like a cooking pot off of the stove. Never hold a child while cooking.

If children are allowed to help in the kitchen, they should be closely monitored. Make sure that all children in your family understand the dangers of the kitchen: Fire from hot surfaces, electrocution from water and appliances, cuts and injuries from utensils such as knives, burns and scalds from hot surfaces and pots.

Never, Ever...

- Put water on a grease or electrical fire.
- Run extension cords across the kitchen.
- Allow children or pets to play in kitchen area.
- Use your oven to heat a room.
- Leave cooking unattended.



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Fire Safe Stovetop Cooking

- Keep clothing, hair and paper away from heat sources.
- Cook on burners that fit the pot and as far back on the stove as possible.
- Turn pot handles inward so they won't get bumped or grabbed.
- If a fire starts, turn off the burner and cover it with a metal lid.

Fire Safe Oven Cooking

- Use only oven safe cooking containers.
- Use oven mitts when handling hot pans.
- Be sure to turn off the oven when nothing is inside.
- If a fire starts, keep the door shut and turn off the oven.

Fire Safe Microwave Cooking

- Use only microwave safe cooking containers.
- Never put metal in the microwave, especially aluminum foil.
- When opening a dish from the microwave, avoid the scalding steam.
- If a fire starts, keep the door shut and unplug the microwave.

Fire Safe Appliance Use

- Use appliances in open spaces away from water.
- Unplug appliances when they are not in use.
- Do not use an appliance if the cord is frayed or broken.
- Never run cords across high-traffic areas, even under rugs.

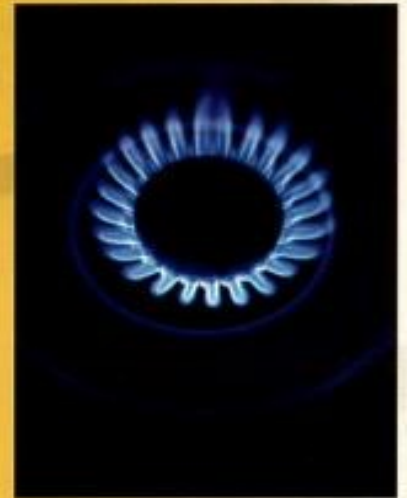
Keep It Clean

- Clean grease and food spills from stove top after each use.
- Clean up floor spills to prevent slips and falls.
- Keep counters clean and organized.
- Check exhaust filters for dirt and grease build-up on a regular basis.

Recipes for Fire Safety!

Outdoor Kitchens

Cooking outside can be dangerous as well. Never leave a cooking grill unattended. Children should have a well-defined play area away from the grill. Besides burns, sharp edges on the grill can cause injury to people. Grill in open outdoor spaces away from furniture and plants. If using gas, check tanks for leaks before each use. If using charcoal, let coals cool before throwing them away in a metal container. Keep the grill clean by removing grease build-up after each use.



Some Notes on Gas

If you smell gas from a gas stove, turn it off and open a window to release the poisonous and flammable fumes. When relighting a pilot light, be sure the room is well-ventilated and use a long-stemmed match or lighter.

Ingredients for a Safe Kitchen

- List of emergency numbers on fridge
- Chemicals and cleaning supplies in locked cabinets
- An ABC rated dry chemical fire extinguisher
- Knives and dangerous utensils locked away
- Box of baking soda next to stove
- Child Lock on the Oven door
- A Fire Blanket

Kitchen Fires Are 100% Preventable!