# Fire prevention tips for Hosts

## At Airbnb, your safety is our priority.

We've partnered with the UK's [National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC)](#) to share up-to-date guidance on how to prevent common fire hazards and reduce the impact of an accidental fire — helping to protect your space and your guests.

# Install alarms and test them regularly

Working smoke alarms are key to making your space safe and provide valuable time to escape a fire. Similar to the average family house or flat, most premises are likely to need interlinked smoke alarms in all areas where a fire might start, such as the hall, staircase, corridors, lounge, dining room and bedrooms.

Heat alarms should also be installed in kitchens, and in any other risk rooms (such as laundry or utility rooms) where false alarms are likely to happen due to cooking fumes, steam, dust, etc. Similar systems, based on vibration units and flashing lights, are available to protect people with hearing difficulties.

All smoke and heat alarms in the premises should be interlinked so that when any alarm device detects fire, all smoke and heat alarms give an audible sound simultaneously. Interlinking is through wiring or radio signalling. In Scotland, all homes must now have interlinked alarms by law. Please check the rules where you are to ensure you are meeting the legal requirements.

Preferably, all smoke and heat alarms should be mains powered with a tamper-proof standby power supply consisting of a battery. These are technically known as Grade D1 alarms. However, long-life, sealed battery alarms (known as Grade F1 alarms) may be acceptable as a short term measure.

Whatever system you fit will need to be tested weekly to check it works and is loud enough to wake anyone sleeping.

Premises larger than an average family house or flat are likely to need a more sophisticated system - possibly with a control panel and manual call points. A fire risk assessment may demonstrate that a variation to the standards mentioned is needed.

Hosts with an active listing can get a self-contained, battery powered combination smoke and carbon monoxide alarm for free on the Airbnb website here.

# Protect your space against carbon monoxide

Carbon monoxide can be caused by poorly installed or maintained appliances, and this clear, odourless, and toxic gas can be hard to detect without an alarm. Make sure you install carbon monoxide detectors in your space and ensure your gas appliances are serviced once a year by a Gas Safe registered engineer. If you have a wood or coal burning stove, make sure the chimneys are swept twice a year.

# Prevention is key

Always keep flammable items and substances away from sources of heat and ignition — and either locked or high out of the reach of children. Kitchen appliances, like toasters, shouldn't be used under wall mounted units.

Fires caused by smoking materials result in more deaths than any other type of fire[1]. If smoking is allowed in or around your property, remind guests to fully and safely extinguish all smoking materials. For more guidance on how to prevent smoking or vaping related fires, see here.

[1]https://www.nationalfirechiefs.org.uk/Vaping-tobacco-position-statement

# Pay attention to electrical items

Routinely check that your electrical appliances and items are working correctly  and that all cables and flexes are in good condition. Make sure sockets and extension leads are not overloaded.
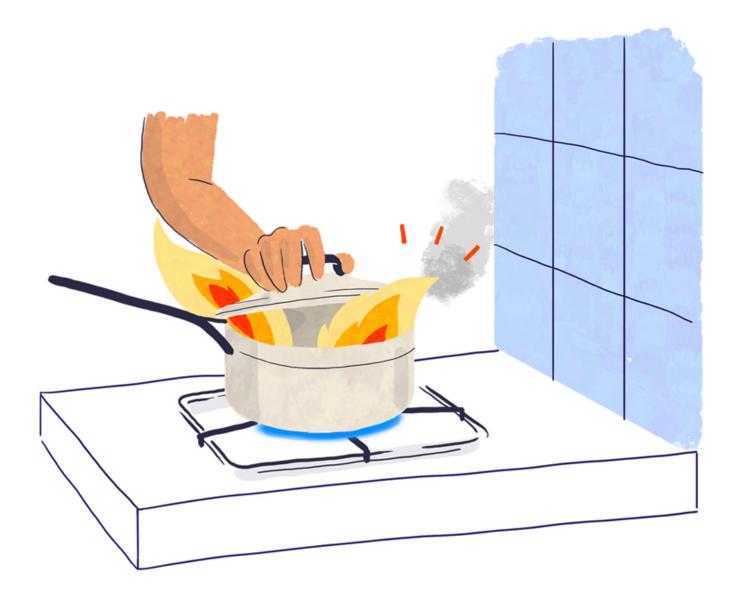


# Close doors (especially at night time)

A closed door helps stop fire and smoke spreading, which can help protect your  escape route. Make sure you close all doors as part of your night time routine.

# Have an escape plan

Know the escape routes from each room in your home and have a detailed plan for you, your family, and your guests in the event you need to evacuate. Escape routes should be kept clear of any clutter and trip hazards. Make sure the plan is appropriate for everyone who stays with you, especially guests with accessibility issues, and keep a printed copy in your guest handbook.

# Looking for more home safety advice?

Reach out to your local fire and rescue service as they may be able to offer further help or advice on how to keep your home safe.

All Hosts in the UK should be aware that fire safety regulations apply to all premises with paying guests. We recommend checking out the Home Office's "Do you have paying guests?" guidelines for more details.

For personalised home safety advice, this tool will take you through your space one room at a time, helping you identify and reduce fire risks as you go.

NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

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