



Fire Safety – Your Homes Structure

This questionnaire helps you identify any fire risks associated with the materials your home is made of, and provides advice on what you can do to reduce them.

1. What sort of dwelling do you live in?

- A single-storey dwelling
- A multi-storey dwelling
- Other (please specify) _____



You don't know where a fire will start, so you should have smoke alarms in every hallway, bedroom, living area on every level of your home.

2. What is most of your internal wall lining made of?

- Gib/Plaster board
- Scrim
- Soft board
- Timber
- Other (please specify) _____
- Don't know

House fires can burn very quickly because of building and furnishing materials.

Did you know that plasterboard (e.g. GIB-board) provides better fire protection than most other wall linings, most of which can burn very quickly and fuel house fires?

3. Is your home rented or owner-occupied?

- Rented
- Owner-occupied
- Other (please specify)

If you have any concerns about fire safety contact your landlord

4. Do you have dwelling (home owners) insurance?

- Yes
- No

Have you thought about what would happen if you had a fire in your home – could you afford to repair or rebuild? Where would you live in the meantime?

5. Do you have contents insurance?

- Yes
- No

Have you thought about what would happen if you lost your belongings in a fire? – could you afford to replace them?

6. How would you describe the current condition of your home?

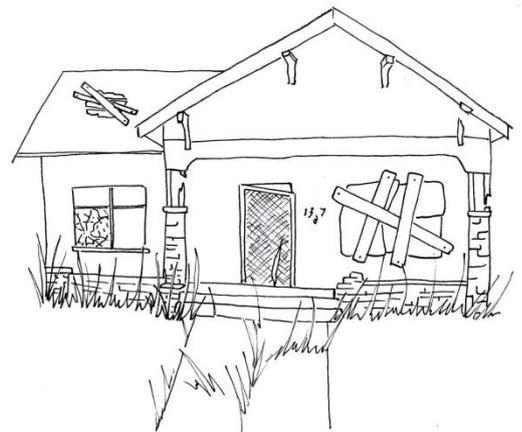
- Excellent – no immediate repair and maintenance needed
- OK – minor or some maintenance needed
- Poor– Immediate and/or extensive repairs and maintenance needed

Houses in poor condition are at more risk from fire.

7. Has your dwelling had any significant renovations?

- Yes
- No

Did you know that scrim walls, large amounts of interior timber, pinex ceilings and other linings that are more common in older homes pose greater fire risk because they burn very quickly and fuel fires?



8. If so, what would best describe the status of that renovation?

- Completed
- Still underway

Is the area under renovation fire-safe? Are there exposed walls or wires? Would building materials block your exit in the case of a fire? Does your insurance policy require you to inform your insurance company that renovations are underway?

9. Do you have any outbuildings that are used for sleeping?

- Yes
- No

Outbuildings such as garages, need smoke alarms or sprinklers if they are attached to the house or used as sleeping quarters.

In many cases, councils require permits/consents when you change the use of an outbuilding to a bedroom or living area. Check with your council about what you might need to do to bring the outbuilding up to a safe standard.

10. If yes, which of these statements best describes this outbuilding?

- Garage separate from the dwelling
- Garage attached to the dwelling
- Sleep out
- Caravan
- Other

Make sure you don't store flammable materials, like petrol, turps, paint or oily rags, in areas where people sleep.

11. The colour of the covering on your electric wiring indicates the age of the wiring. What colour is most of the electric wire covering in your home?

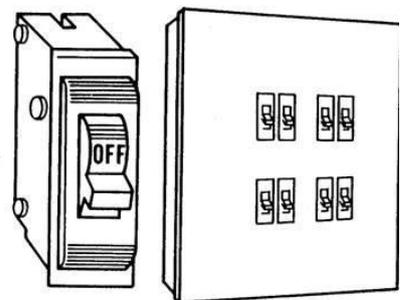
- Black
- White

If the covering is black, then your wiring is old. The black deteriorates over time, exposing you to fire risk from faulty wiring. If your concerned, contact an electrician who can provide you with advise on what to do.

12. How would you describe your meter box?

- Old-type fuse fittings (with fuse wire)
- Modern with circuit breakers

Older fuse fitting do not provide you with the protection that newer circuit breakers do if you overload the system. You may be exposing your household to greater fire risk.



13. Are all your high wattage electrical appliances (e.g., microwave, heater, electric jug, toaster, hairdryer) each plugged into a separate wall socket?

- Yes
- No

Ensure all electric appliances are in safe working order – replace frayed cords and broken plugs, and keep appliances free of dust.

Overloaded power points or multi-boxes are dangerous. One appliance per socket is the safest. Consider multi-boxes with circuit breakers.

Avoid running power cords under carpets, especially in walking areas.

14. Which of these best describes the inside of your dwelling?

- Spacious with little clutter
- Cramped with clutter
- Spacious with clutter
- Cramped with little clutter

Household clutter could increase your fire risk. Clutter provides more fuel to feed a fire. If a fire starts, it will take hold and spread further and faster.

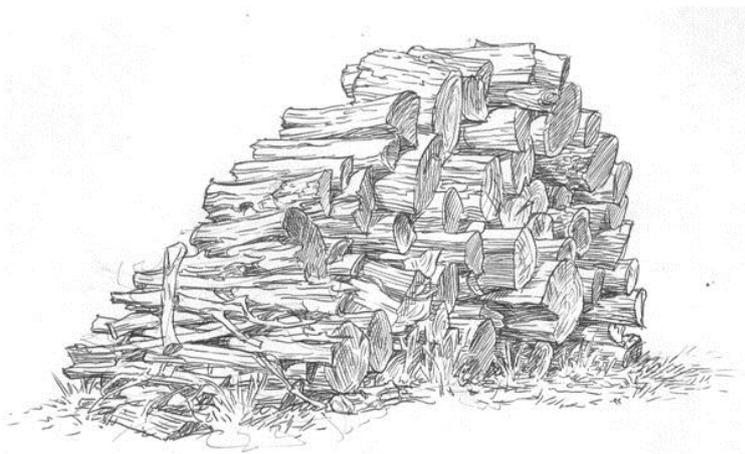
Clutter might block your way when you try to escape a fire.

15. Which of these items are near to or against the wall of your home?

- Trees
- Vegetation (long grass, shrubs etc.)
- Rubbish (papers, discarded Christmas trees, etc.)
- Firewood
- Abandoned cars
- There is nothing against or close to the wall of the dwelling

Items near or against your home can act as a fuel source, feeding a fire.

These items can also create a fire hazard, catching embers from other peoples outdoor fires.



For further information contact
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