Home Fire Safety Checklist:

1. Remove all combustible rubbish, leaves, and debris from your yard.
2. Remove all waste, debris, and litter from your garage.
3. If you store paint, varnish, etc., in your garage, make sure the containers are tightly closed.
4. Have an approved safety can for the storing of gasoline/oil for lawn mowers and automobiles.
5. Keep your basement, storerooms, and attic free from rubbish, oily rags, old papers, mattresses, and broken furniture.
6. Have a sufficient number of metal cans with lids for rubbish and combustible debris.
7. Keep all stoves, broilers, and other cooking equipment clean and free of grease.
8. Keep arranged curtains away from stoves to prevent blowing over the burners or flames.
9. Forbid members of the family to start fires in stoves or fireplaces with kerosene or other flammable liquids.
10. Always see that your portable space heater is placed well away from curtains, drapes, furniture, etc.
11. Make sure your electrical appliances including irons, mixers, heaters, lamps, fans, radios, television sets, and other devices "UL" listed.
12. Make sure rooms have an adequate number of outlets to take care of electrical appliances.
13. Do away with all multiple attachment plugs.
14. Make sure flexible electrical extension and lamp cords in your home are in the open. (None placed under rugs, over hooks, through partitions or door openings)
15. Keep matches in a metal container away from heat and away from children.
16. Extinguish all matches, cigarettes, and cigar butts carefully before disposing of them.
17. Make sure there are plenty of noncombustible ash trays in all rooms throughout the house.
18. Are members of the family instructed not to smoke in bed?
19. The number to the fire department is 911.
20. Have a home escape plan in case of a fire.
21. Hold home fire drills at least once a month.
22. Instruct babysitters on what to do in case of a fire.
23. Insure that entire family take part in completing this checklist.
24. Have at least a smoke detector on every level of your home, and within 15 feet of your bedrooms.

Smoke Detectors and Home Escape Planning Could Save Your Life!

Why a Smoke Detector? Most fires occur at night when people are sleeping. A smoke detector can alert you when there is a fire, in time to save your life. Smoke detectors work by sensing rising smoke from a fire and sounding an alarm.

What Type Should I Buy?

1. Photoelectric uses a photoelectric bulb that sends forth a beam of light. When smoke enters, light from the beam is reflected from smoke particles into a photocell and the alarm is triggered.

2. Ionization Chamber contains a small, safe radiation chamber source that produces electrically charged air molecules called ions. When smoke enters the chamber, it causes a change in the flow of ions, triggering the alarm.

Both are EQUALLY EFFECTIVE and neither requires that you be familiar with its inner workings. As long as you buy a detector that is tested by a major testing laboratory, such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL), you can be assured it has met certain testing requirements.

Where Should I Install My Detector? Smoke rises, so the best place to install a detector is on the ceiling or high on an inside wall just below the ceiling. If the detector is below an un-insulated attic or in a mobile home, the detector should be placed on the wall 4" - 12" below the ceiling.

In a Multi-level home, a detector is needed on each level. On the first floor it should be placed on the ceiling at the base of the stairwell. Detectors should be installed within 15 feet of the bedrooms so they can be heard when the door is closed. But, remember not to install a detector within 3 feet of an air supply register that may blow smoke away. Don't install a detector between an air return and the sleeping area. The smoke will be re-circulated and diluted resulting in a delayed alarm.

If you are installing more than one detector you may want to consider purchasing units that can be interconnected. That way when one unit detects smoke, all the detectors will sound the alarm.

How Are Detectors Powered? Detectors can be powered two ways:

1. Batteries
   These are the easiest to install. They require no outlets or wiring connection, however, batteries must be replaced twice a year. We recommend you change them in the Spring and in the Fall when you change your clocks. All UL listed battery operated detectors are required to sound a trouble signal when a replacement is needed. The signal usually lasts 7 days, so it's advised to check the efficiency of the detector following extended periods away.

2. Household current
   Detectors can be powered with household current two ways. They can be plugged into any wall socket or can be wired permanently into your home's electrical system.

How Can I Best Care for My Detector? Dirt, extreme changes in temperature and cooking exhaust can cause a false alarm or malfunction of the detector. To prevent false alarms, locate the detector away from air vents, air conditioners and fans. Keep the grillwork free of dirt by occasional vacuuming and dusting. Don't paint the cover of a smoke detector as this may clog the grillwork. Test your detector every month, or more often if necessary to make sure it's working. This is usually done with the test button, if provided.

Who needs a carbon monoxide detector?

Single Family Residences.

A single family residence, heated by a forced air furnace or a boiler that burns a fossil fuel, shall have a carbon monoxide detector within forty (40) feet of all rooms used for sleeping. The carbon monoxide

detector should be placed so it will be easily heard in all sleeping areas and should be installed according to manufacturer's instructions.

Multiple Family Dwellings & Apartment Buildings.

A multiple family dwelling or apartment building, in which a hot water or steam boiler, that burns a fossil fuel and is located in the basement, must have one approved carbon monoxide detector installed in the room containing the central heating unit. The carbon monoxide detector should be installed according to manufacturer's instructions.

Every apartment that has its own warm air heating plant (portable furnaces, space heaters, etc.) that burns a fossil fuel shall have a carbon monoxide detector within forty (40) feet of all rooms used for sleeping. The carbon monoxide detector should be placed so it will easily be heard in all sleeping rooms and should be installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.

What is Carbon Monoxide (CO)?

Carbon monoxide (CO) is an odorless, colorless gas produced by burning fossil fuels (Fossil fuels shall include natural gas, coal, kerosene, oil, propane and wood etc.) Exposure to lower levels of CO over several hours can be just as dangerous as exposure to higher levels for a few minutes.

Those most at risk are:

Children.
Elderly.
People with lung or heart disease.
Pregnant woman.

Signs and symptoms of CO poisoning include:

Headache.
Fatigue.
Sleepiness.
Weakness.
Nausea, Vomiting.
Dizziness, Confusion.
Trouble breathing.

If prolonged exposure continues, LOSS OF CONSCIOUSNESS, COMA and ultimately DEATH will occur.

Do you have any of these fuel burning appliances?

Gas Furnace.
Gas Water Heater.
Fireplace.
Wood Burning Stove.
Gas Ranges or Ovens.
Gas Dryers.
Kerosene Heaters.
Charcoal/Gas Grilles.

Lawn Mowers.
Chain Saws.

Dangerous levels of carbon monoxide can occur if these appliances are improperly installed/maintained, damaged, malfunctioning or improperly used/ventilated. Furnaces, water heaters, wood stoves and chimneys should be checked yearly by a professional service. This is to ensure proper function and ventilation. Yard equipment or charcoal/gas grilles should never be used or run in the home.

What to do if your CO detector goes off.

Ventilate the house and get out!
As you leave, turn off fuel burning appliances if possible.
Get fresh air.
Call 911.
Seek medical attention if you have signs & symptoms of CO poisoning.
Don't go back into the building until cleared by the fire department.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning:

When inhaled, carbon monoxide, a tasteless, odorless gas, is easily absorbed into the blood. The gas is lethal when it replaces the amount of oxygen needed to sustain heart and brain function.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning include headaches, fatigue, weakness, shortness of breath, and nausea, are often dismissed as a "touch of the flu," even by doctors.

1. Never use a vented-type heater without proper venting and flue (chimney).

2. Follow manufacturer's recommendations for the proper size heater and for its installation, maintenance and use.

3. Have it professionally installed, if possible. Have your heater installation checked by the local fire marshal, building inspector, or gas company before lighting.

4. Never use a heater that is in disrepair. Always keep your heater in proper operating condition. Turn off the heater if the burner flame looks strange, i.e., yellow flames, unsteady flames, or smoky flames.
5. Turn off the heater, ventilate the room and get into the fresh air if you feel other than normal, i.e., headache, nausea, fuzzy vision--remember CO does not have an odor and you may become unconscious before you realize there is a problem.

6. Make sure the venting system is open--a blocked vent can cause your space heater to exhaust CO into your living space. Never sleep in a room where a gas heater is burning.

7. Do not operate a gas heater in a completely 'tight' room. The heater needs a source of fresh air to operate safely and efficiently. 'Crack' a window, if needed.