

Fire Safety Recommendations for Mobile Homes

Essential Tips to Protect Your Home and Family

Introduction

Mobile homes, also known as manufactured homes, have unique fire safety considerations due to their construction materials and layout. Ensuring fire safety is crucial to protect lives and property. Here are recommended fire safety practices for mobile home owners and residents.

1. Install and Maintain Smoke Alarms

- Place smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of your home.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries at least once a year.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years or according to the manufacturer's instructions.

2. Use Fire Extinguishers

- Keep a multipurpose fire extinguisher (rated ABC) in the kitchen and near sleeping areas.
- Learn how to use a fire extinguisher and ensure all family members know its location.
- Check fire extinguishers regularly to ensure they are charged and in working order.

3. Practice Safe Cooking

- Never leave cooking unattended, especially when using the stovetop or oven.
- Keep flammable items like towels, paper, and curtains away from the stove.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking that could catch fire.
- Have a fire-resistant mat or rug in front of the stove or cooking area.

4. Maintain Electrical Safety

- Have your electrical system inspected by a qualified electrician, especially if your home is older.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets or using extension cords as permanent wiring.

- Replace damaged or frayed cords immediately.
- Use only appliances and heating devices approved for mobile home use.

5. Space Heater and Furnace Safety

- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn, such as bedding, furniture, and curtains.
- Turn off portable heaters when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Have your furnace and heating system professionally inspected and cleaned annually.

6. Plan and Practice an Escape Route

- Create a fire escape plan with at least two ways out of every room if possible.
- Identify a safe meeting place outside the home.
- Practice your escape plan with all household members at least twice a year.

7. Keep Exits Clear

- Do not block doors or windows with furniture or other items.
- Ensure that all windows designated for escape open easily and are not painted or nailed shut.
- Consider installing quick-release window devices for emergency exits.

8. Skirting and Underpinning Precautions

- Keep the area under your mobile home free of debris, trash, and flammable materials.
- Do not store gasoline, propane tanks, or other flammable liquids under the home.
- Ensure skirting allows for proper ventilation and access for fire emergency services.

9. Outdoor Safety Considerations

- Keep grills, fire pits, and smoking materials at least 10 feet away from the home.
- Trim vegetation and remove dry leaves or debris from around the home to reduce fire risk.
- Install clearly visible house numbers to help emergency responders locate your home quickly.

10. Educate All Residents

- Discuss fire safety rules with all household members, including children and guests.
- Ensure everyone knows how to call 911 and provide your address clearly.

- Keep important documents and emergency contacts in an accessible location.

Conclusion

Fire prevention and preparedness are essential for mobile home safety. By following these recommendations, you can reduce the risk of fire and ensure that you and your loved ones are ready to respond effectively if an emergency occurs. Regularly review and update your fire safety practices to keep your home as safe as possible.