



The 14 Deadliest Things in your Home (pt. 1)

Home is where we feel safe from the dangers that lie waiting in the larger world. But the most ordinary things can turn deadly if they're not misused or neglected.

1. **Cigarettes:** Fires that start from cigarettes, cigars and pipes, kill more Americans every year than any other type of fire the NFPA says. Don't smoke in bed and don't leave cigarettes unattended.
2. **Space Heaters:** Home heating equipment including fireplaces, chimneys, central heating units and space heaters are the second leading cause of home fire deaths according to the NFPA. Space heaters account for 4-5 deaths from these types of equipment. Plug space heaters directly into outlets, never into extension cords or power strips. Keep any burnables at least 3 feet away from the heaters.
3. **Stoves:** Fires that start from cooking are the 3rd leading cause of fire deaths. Stoves are involved in most cooking fires and unattended cooking is the leading cause of kitchen fires. Don't leave the kitchen if your frying, broiling, or grilling and don't leave the house if your simmering, boiling or baking.
4. **Clothes Dryer:** Dryer fires kill approx. 5 people every year according to the US Fire Administration. Failure to clean is the leading cause for dryer fires. Clean the lint filter before and after each load, clean out vent pipe every 3 months or more and clean back of dryer where lint collects.
5. **Furnace:** Any fuel burning appliance, such as a furnace or fireplace, can produce carbon monoxide. Other than portable generators, heating systems are associated with most carbon monoxide deaths according to the US Consumer Products Safety Commission. Install carbon monoxide and smoke alarms and replace batteries every 6 months. Schedule an annual inspection for any fuel burning heating system, including furnaces, fireplaces, boilers, wood stoves and water heaters.
6. **Portable Generators:** Carbon monoxide poisoning from portable generators has been rising since the equipment has become more available to consumers. Most of these deaths occurred because the generators were used inside the living space or in a basement or garage. Use a generator only outside and far away from windows, doors or vents. Never use one inside, even if the windows and doors are open.
7. **Big TV's:** According to a report by Safe Kids Worldwide and Sanus, a maker of A/V furnishings, that every 3 weeks a child dies from a TV tipping over and almost 13,00 children are injured every year. The accidents occur when the kids are playing or trying to climb up to reach items on or near the TV. Use only stands that are appropriate for the size and weight of the TV and install a stabilizing device to prevent tip overs. Other types of furniture and appliance can also tip over causing injuries or death.
Source: Barbara Marquand, Insure.com

For additional information, or to schedule an inspection, please call Jeff @ (608) 434-0790.

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