

FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

FOR FIRST-TIME RENTERS



ALARMS

- ☐ **Smoke Alarms:** There must be a working alarm outside all sleeping areas and on each storey of the home.
- ☐ **Carbon Monoxide (CO) Alarms:** If you have an attached garage or a fuel burning-appliance (gas stove, fireplace or furnace), there must be a CO alarm outside all sleeping area and on each storey.
- ☐ **Push-to-Test:** Hit the test button on your alarms once a month. You should hear three beeps for smoke alarms and four for CO alarms to confirm that they work.
- ☐ **Expiry Date:** Check the installation date on the back of the alarm. If it's more than 10 years old, notify your landlord.

ESCAPE PLAN

- ☐ **Two Ways Out:** Identify two escape paths out of every room (usually a door and a window). If you live in an apartment building, ask your landlord about the building's fire safety plan.
- ☐ **Clutter:** Both exit paths must be clear of furniture, boxes and clutter.
- ☐ **Meeting Point:** Designate a meeting place a safe distance from your home. In case of a fire, occupants are to gather here and be accounted for.
- ☐ **Get Out, Stay Out:** In a fire, you may have less than 60 seconds to escape. Follow your escape plan, get out immediately and call the fire department from outside. Do not re-enter the building.
- ☐ **Practice Run:** Walk through the plan with your roommates. If a window is your second exit, make sure everyone knows how to unlock and open it quickly.

HOME HAZARDS

- ☐ **Electrical Check:** Plug major appliances (microwaves, air fryers) directly into electrical outlets, not extension cords.
- ☐ **Charging Safety:** Charge your phone/ laptop on a hard, flat surface (not a bed or couch). Charge e-bikes and e-scooters away from your exits.
- ☐ **Cooking:** Practice a "look while you cook" policy. Never leave a stovetop unattended.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

As a renter in Ontario, you have certain legal protections and obligations:

- * **Landlord Responsibility:** It is your landlord's legal duty to install and maintain working smoke and CO alarms.
- * **Your Responsibility:** Tenants are responsible for reporting any operational issues with smoke and CO alarms, and must never disable an alarm.

Failure to comply with the Ontario Fire Code can result in significant fines for both tenants and landlords—and put your life at risk.

STAY INFORMED

Missing items on your checklist? Want more information? Get in touch with your landlord, contact your local fire department, or visit:

www.SavedByTheBeep.ca