

#GUIDES

# MINIMISING fire hazards in the home



Often underemphasised, fire hazards remain a silent menace of modern living. While recent tragedies have left us all reeling in shock and disbelief, many remain unaware of the appropriate measures that need to be taken to prevent fire breakouts in the home or the protocols to follow if such a fire does break out.

Follow some simple rules to avoid fires in your home.

### Use electrical appliances correctly

Always purchase multiplugs with a high wattage and ensure that the cumulative wattage of the devices connected does not exceed the limit. Do not leave

electrical devices charging on beds or under pillows; instead place them on hard, non-flammable surfaces.

### Prevent leakage from gas stoves

Never leave the gas stove turned on when you are not using it and ensure that the pipes supplying gas to the stove do not have any leakages. Check whether the stove is turned off every night before going to bed as gas can build up overnight and may catch on fire when ignited in the morning.

### Monitor fire sources

One of the major sources of fire breakouts is, well, fires. Never leave your cooking unattended or your stove burning. Try to



avoid smoking in the house, especially on the bed or couch, particularly if you are drowsy. Candles should not be left burning if there is no one around, since something as simple as a candle falling over may cause a fire to break out. Store combustible objects such as oils,

cardboard, and paper away from fire sources.

### Keep fire extinguishers and fire blankets handy

All apartment buildings should have carbon dioxide fire extinguishers placed outside the apartment door on each floor and each member of the household should know the correct way of using these extinguishers.

### Practice fire drills with household members

Fire safety drills including escape techniques should be held periodically to ensure that members of the household know what to do in case of an emergency.

By Momeena Mahmood  
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