

Kitchen safety

SAFETY
LEAFLET

3

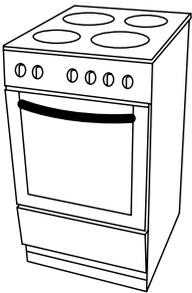


Did you know most fires start
in the kitchen?

Ensure your kitchen is safe

More than half of accidental fires in the home start in the kitchen, often because manufacturers' instructions haven't been read, or when cooking is left unattended.

To ensure your kitchen is safe, always fully read and comply with manufacturers' instructions, keep kitchen appliances in good working order and follow the advice below.

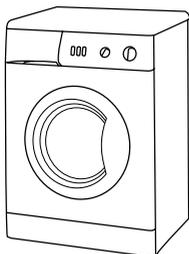
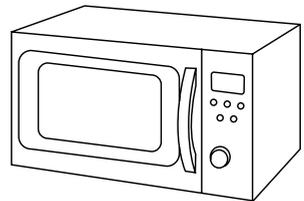


Cookers

- Keep ovens, hobs and grills clean – a build up of fat and foodstuffs can start a fire
- Do not store any items on hobs, in ovens or grills
- Do not dry items in ovens or grills
- Do not fill pans more than a third full of oil
- Most weeks we attend fires caused by the storing of paper, tea towels and other items on top of hobs

Microwaves

- Overheating can cause fire, always ensure the correct timing is used
- Only heat appropriate items
- Do not store items on top of the microwave
- We regularly go to fires because items have been overheated in microwaves

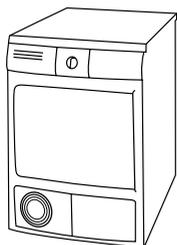


Washing machines

- Ensure washing machines are not left in standby mode for long periods after use

Toasters

- Ensure the toaster is well away from curtains
- Empty the crumb tray regularly

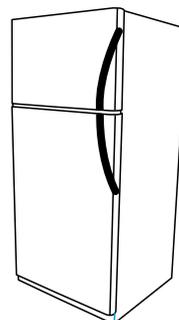


Tumble dryers

- Avoid a flammable fluff build-up by cleaning filters on a regular basis
- Only dry appropriate and correctly sized items as described in the manufacturers' instructions (quilts and sleeping bags are sometimes not recommended in domestic tumble dryers)
- We regularly see fires because tumble dryer filters are not cleaned

Fridge/freezers

- Ensure regular defrosting to ensure the motor is not overworking and overheating
- Leave a gap between appliances and kitchen units – at least 2cm is recommended by most manufacturers



What to do in an emergency

If you do have a fire in your kitchen, only if safe to do so:

- turn off the electricity, gas or water at the main supply switch, otherwise unplug or disconnect the appliance if you can
- get out of the house and stay out
- call the fire service out

Remember

- **Never leave any cooking unattended**
- **A household fire doubles in size every 30 seconds**
- **Just two breaths of fire smoke can cause unconsciousness**
- **Using kitchen appliances properly reduces their impact on the environment and will save you money**

Are you at risk from carbon monoxide?

Carbon monoxide is an invisible and odourless poisonous gas, produced when fuel does not burn properly. Each year around 11 people in the UK die from poisoning caused by boilers and other gas appliances that have not been properly installed, maintained or that are poorly ventilated.

Symptoms of poisoning include headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness and collapse. Find out more – go online and search ‘carbon monoxide’.



If you would like this information in another format or language, please call our **Home Safety Advice team on 0800 923 7000** or email **home@kent.fire-uk.org**