

DON'T TAKE RISKS

There is no such thing as a safe fire!

- Fire safety equipment can be helpful in an emergency, but it is vitally important to know how and when to use it.
- Always read the manufacturer's instructions before using fire fighting equipment, and only tackle small fires which are in their early stages and before they start to spread.
- Before tackling any fire, make sure that everyone is outside and that your escape route is clear and unobstructed.
- If you are at all unsure about what to do, don't take risks. Tackling fire is a job best left to professional firefighters.



IF THERE'S A FIRE... **Get Out
Stay Out
and call
999**



GET SMART!

Information that could save your life.

GET EQUIPPED!

Investing in your own safety.

GET OUT!

Make a plan. Be prepared.

This is one of a series of leaflets in the 'Get Smart! Get Equipped! Get Out!' fire safety range available from your local Fire and Rescue Service. Other leaflets in the series provide advice on fire safety equipment, fire safety for parents and children, and extra information for those with eyesight problems or problems getting around.

Translations and alternative formats are also available.

This leaflet has been developed in conjunction with The Fire Extinguishing Trades Association (FETA)



Published by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.
©Crown copyright 2003. Printed in the UK, September 2004,
on material containing 75% post-consumer waste
and 25% ECF pulp (04DOC01123)
Product code: Fire Equipment 04



For further information visit our website at: www.firekills.gov.uk

Fire equipment for the home



PROTECT YOUR HOME FROM FIRE

Fire safety – fire protection

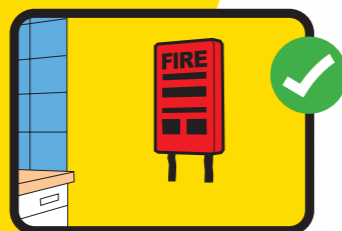
Fitting fire safety equipment can help keep you and your house safe from fire. It is vital to know how and when to use it! Only tackle small fires in their early stages and before they start to spread.

You'll find the information you need on buying, installing and looking after fire equipment in this leaflet.

LOCATION MATTERS

Be careful where you fit fire safety equipment.

- Blankets and extinguishers should be easily accessible in an emergency and never placed above a cooker or heater.
- A fire blanket is most useful in the kitchen.
- A fire extinguisher is best placed in the hall and taken where needed.
- Fit smoke alarms where you can hear them, ideally in hallways and landings.



SMOKE ALARMS

Every home should have at least one smoke alarm and preferably one at each floor level.

What are they?

Small battery or mains-powered devices that sound a loud alarm if they detect smoke. They will give you warning of fire even if you're asleep.

How do you use them?

You need to fit and maintain them, and then they respond automatically.



Cost

From about £5 and available in most supermarkets and DIY stores.

It is important to test smoke alarms every week.



More information about the different types of smoke alarms is contained in the 'Smoke Alarms' leaflet available free from your local Fire and Rescue Service.

FIRE BLANKETS

What are they?

Lightweight sheets of fire-resistant material.

How do you use them?

You cover a fire to cut its supply of oxygen or wrap a person whose clothes are on fire.



Cost

From about £15.

If you buy one make sure it complies with British Standard BS EN 1869.

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

What are they?

Cylinders containing a pressurised fire fighting agent which shoots out in a jet. They may contain powder, water, foam or carbon dioxide.

How do you use them?

They are quick and simple to use. Basically, you point them at the fire and shoot the jet at it. However there are different types of extinguishers – always read the instructions and make sure you have the right extinguisher for the type of fire. If in doubt, contact your local Fire and Rescue Service.



Cost

From about £20.

SPRINKLERS

What are they?

Ceiling-fitted water sprays that automatically respond to raised temperatures. Sprinkler heads can be fitted in every room and will respond individually to fire.

How do you use them?

They need to be professionally installed.

Cost

The cost of a system is dependent on the size of your home and whether the system was installed when your property was built or fitted afterwards.



Remember: if in doubt, get out, stay out and call 999.