

- If you use the basement as a bedroom make sure windows are large enough to escape through in case of fire.
- Do not store trash or other combustible materials near your heating equipment or water heater.
- Become familiar with your main electrical panel. Check for proper wiring and fuses or breakers and make sure that all your fuses or breakers are labeled.
- Clean lint from dryer screen before each use. Plug dryer into a separate outlet and vent to the outside. Keep the area clear.

GARAGE & SHOP

- Store gasoline in approved tightly sealed containers and use only as a motor fuel. Never store gasoline in the house or basement.
- Keep paints, flammable liquids and other chemicals in their original labeled containers with tight fitting lids.
- Use and store flammables (eg. pesticides, fertilizers, paint and gasoline) away from any source of heat or flame. Never smoke near flammable liquids.
- Dispose of oil soaked rags after use or store in a tightly closed metal container. Never burn them or throw them in trash that will be burned.

*For further information
or a home safety inspection contact:*
Teaneck Fire Prevention Bureau
8:00 am – 6:00 pm Monday – Friday
at **201-837-4861**

*For non emergency questions
contact the Teaneck Fire Department*
24/7 at **201-837-2085**

IMPORTANT LIFE SAFETY TIPS INSIDE

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Teaneck Fire Department
1231 Teaneck Road
Teaneck, New Jersey 07666

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Home Fire Safety Checklist



Courtesy of
**Teaneck
Fire Department**

*In Case of
Emergency Call*

911

or

201-837-7783

A Message From the Fire Chief

This brochure, prepared by the Teaneck Fire Department, based upon information provided by the National Fire Protection Association, is part of the Township's **"Operation Overload"** project. The project is intended to provide residents with a set of suggested guidelines regarding fire safety issues to promote fire safety within their homes. We urge all residents to carefully review the information contained within and to contact the Teaneck Fire Department with any questions.

PREVENT FIRES BEFORE THEY START

Use this handy home fire prevention and safety checklist to do a room by room search for fire hazards in your home and then correct any hazards you might find.

THROUGHOUT HOME

- Install smoke detectors on every level of the home. Outside bedroom areas, install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Test all detectors monthly and change batteries when you change your clocks (twice a year).
- Put out cigarettes in an ashtray. Never throw them in the trash can. Make sure they are completely extinguished and never smoke in bed or while sleepy.
- Never leave candles unattended. Keep candles away from curtains and all combustible materials. Keep out of reach of children and extinguish candles when leaving your home.
- Keep all lighters and matches out of reach of children or in a locked cabinet.



- Use lightbulbs that have the correct wattage for the fixture.
- Replace all frayed or broken electrical cords.
- Check for independent testing lab safety labels (eg. UL or FM) on all appliances and portable heaters.
- Use outlets safely. All large appliances should be on their own circuit. Never use extension cords to operate large appliances and do not overload electrical outlets.
- Make sure there are two escape routes from every room including basement bedrooms and make sure you have a meeting place outside the home in the event of an emergency. Also make it a point to practice fire drills in your home.
- Store and use all cleaning products and aerosol cans away from any source of heat or flame. Don't burn the containers or throw in trash that will be burned.
- Do not use electrical appliances or tools when the cord is near water.
- Never run cords or wires under rugs and carpets or near a heat source where they can overheat.
- Never use extension cords as permanent wiring.
- Clean wood stoves and fireplace chimneys before each heating season.
- Burn only dry seasoned wood in a fireplace or stove to reduce the buildup of creosote – which is flammable – in the chimney.
- Close the screen or heat tempered glass doors when the fireplace is in use to prevent sparks from igniting furniture, draperies or other items.
- Never stack newspapers, wood and other items that might catch fire by the fireplace or wood burning stove.
- Buy portable heaters with automatic safety features. Keep them clean and at least three feet away from any combustible materials (eg. draperies, blankets and all bedding material, etc).



KITCHEN

- Never leave cooking food unattended.
- Have stovetop and oven checked annually to be sure they are working properly and have any broken or frayed wires replaced by a professional.
- Keep the stovetop and oven clean to avoid grease fires.
- Remove towels, potholders, plastic bags, newspapers and other flammable materials from around the stovetop, toasters and toaster ovens.
- Do not hang curtains or other flammable materials above the stove.
- Do not use or store appliances or cords near water where they may get wet.
- Turn pot handles towards the back of the stove.
- Wear tight fitting sleeves or roll them up when cooking.
- Unplug appliances when not in use.



BATHROOMS

- Run appliance cords away from sink or tub so they don't get wet.
- Install ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in the bathroom, kitchen and other rooms with water or moisture. These shut off the current when there is a danger of shock.
- Use hairdryers, curling & flat irons away from items that might burn. Never leave hot curling & flat irons unattended. Unplug when finished.

BASEMENT & UTILITY ROOMS

- Have your heating equipment checked before each heating season to be sure it is in proper working condition. Change heating equipment filters frequently.

