

Preventing Fires



Fire Safety

- **Have a working Smoke Alarm on each level of the home.**
- **Test Smoke Alarms every week.**
- **Close internal doors when going to bed & switch off electrical appliances.**
- **Plan your escape route**
 - **Keep escape route clear**
 - **Know where door keys are kept at night**
 - **Make sure all in the home know the escape route**



Fire Safety

- **Never Smoke in bed or when tired.**
- Keep lighters and matches out of sight and reach of children.
- **Place a spark guard in front of open fires**
- When using candles ensure they are on a heatproof surface and kept away from loose furnishings like curtains. Never leave them unattended.

Fire Safety

- **Never use a chip pan.**
- If you do use one never put water on it if it goes on fire.
- **Switch off cookers when not in use.**
- Place hair straighteners on a heat proof surface when heating up/cooling down.
- Do not dry clothes on or cover portable electric or gas heaters or wall mounted electric heaters.



Fire Safety

- **Charge mobile phones or devices before going to bed - don't leave charging over night.**
- Beware of cheap chargers – only purchase products certified compatible with your device. Substandard or counterfeit products can be a fire risk.
- **Take care when purchasing from online sellers – check their profile and reviews to establish if they are selling genuine products.**
- Don't run dishwashers, washing machines, tumble dryers or other appliances running overnight.

Overloaded sockets can lead to overheating



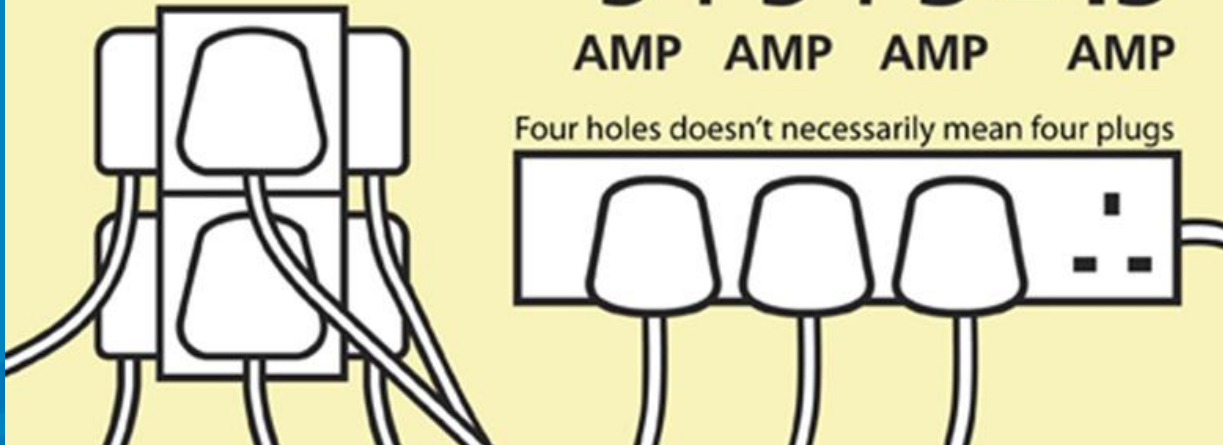
Remember not to overload sockets

Don't overload and know the limit!

$$5 + 5 + 3 = 13$$

AMP AMP AMP AMP

Four holes doesn't necessarily mean four plugs



Faulty or damaged Electric Blankets can cause a fire



Using Electric Blankets safely

- **Avoid using a hot water bottle and an electric blanket at the same time.**
- If your blanket doesn't have a timer, turn it off before you go to sleep.
- **Don't use more than one electric blanket at a time.**
- Check regularly, ensuring under blanket types are flat on the mattress with tie-tapes or elasticated valance used to keep it in place. If the blanket gets creased it can damage the heating elements

- **Do not use if blanket or cable/controls are worn or frayed or if there are any scorch marks.**
- **Never use an electric blanket if you have an air flow pressure relief mattress, motorised adjustable mattress or use emollient creams.**
- **Do not allow infants or young children to sleep on an electric blanket while switched on.**

Using & Cleaning Electric Blankets

- **Ensure the blanket's edges are not tucked under your mattress and is flat (use the tie-tapes if provided)**
- **Don't wash or dry clean an electric blanket unless the instructions specifically say this can be done.**
- **If your blanket gets wet, don't use it. Never switch it on to dry it.**
- **Replace your blanket every 10 years – most electric blanket fires come from blankets 10 years or older.**

Storing Electric Blankets

- When storing an electric blanket, gently roll it or lay it out flat on a spare bed. If you must fold it, fold with as few creases as possible.
- Don't pile pillows, blankets or anything else on an electric blanket.
- Check for frayed wires, scorch marks, tears and wires that don't fit properly.
- For more information visit:
www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/electrical-safety

NIFRS Home Fire Safety Check

- **Free service for**
 - **Over 50s**
 - **Disabled, have Impaired Mobility or a Health Condition that impacts the ability to acknowledge and respond to an emergency.**
 - **Receiving assistance from an agency with a partnership with NIFRS**
- **Carried out by local Firefighters who can provide fire safety advice will also ensure there are sufficient smoke alarms fitted.**

To request a free Home Fire Safety Check

- Visit the NIFRS website: www.nifrs.org
- Phone 028 9266 4221