



# Home Inspection Checklist

**Watauga Fire Department**  
7101 Whitley Road  
Watauga, Texas 76148  
(817) 514-5770

Please take the time to complete the following inspection of your home. As you evaluate each item, check the box in the space provided if the item is safe. When you are finished, review the empty boxes and take corrective action.

## Smoke Detection

- You have smoke alarms on every level of your home
- You have replaced the batteries in the smoke alarms within the last year
- You have tested your smoke alarms in the last month
- None of the smoke alarms are over 10 years old

## Bedrooms and Bathrooms

- You and your children can open all doors and windows from the inside for escape
- Smoke alarms are located just outside and/or in every bedroom
- A list of important and emergency phone numbers is located next to each phone or programmed into each phone and all family members know how to call 9-1-1
- You have a working flashlight in each bedroom
- Combustibles are kept at least 3 feet away from space heaters (curtains, walls, furniture)
- Bulbs are at or below maximum wattage prescribed by the manufacturer
- Electrical outlets are not overloaded
- Extension cords are used as temporary, not permanent, wiring
- Cords of appliances and light fixtures are in good condition (not frayed or damaged)
- Matches, lighters, poisons and medications are stored out of children's reach
- Old medicine is dumped in the toilet and flushed rather than being placed in the trash can
- Cleaning products are kept in their original containers and are out of the reach of children
- Candles are kept away from combustibles and extinguished before going to sleep
- All family members know at least two ways of getting out of each room
- All family members know your family escape plan and meeting place outside the home
- All family members know how to crawl low under smoke
- An escape ladder or rope is available for evacuation from upper levels in the event of fire

## Kitchen

- Appliance cords are kept out of the reach of small children
- Electrical outlets are not overloaded
- Appliances are kept away from water
- Appliance cords are in good condition (not frayed or damaged)
- Appliances are unplugged when not in use
- The stovetop is clean of grease and oil
- Combustibles are kept away from the stove
- All family members know to **never** walk away from food cooking on the stove
- Handles on pots and pans are turned inward while cooking to prevent them from being pulled down by small children or bumped by adults
- All cleaning products and other chemicals are stored out of the reach of children (not underneath the sink)
- A first aid kit is easily accessible and all family members know where it is
- Fire extinguisher is easily accessible and family members are trained in its use

## Living Area

- Electrical outlets are not overloaded
- If there is a smoker, use large deep ashtrays
- After a party, furniture is checked for smoldering cigarette ashes
- The fireplace has a screen/glass covering
- A metal container with a lid is used to remove ashes
- The chimney has been cleaned within the last year
- Combustibles are not stored near the fireplace
- Each smoke alarm is tested monthly and functions properly
- The smoke alarms have been vacuumed recently
- If you have cabinets and storage drawers, safety latches have been installed to keep small children away from dangerous items or confined spaces
- Lighting cords are in good condition (not frayed or damaged)
- Candles are kept away from combustibles and extinguished before leaving the room
- There are no holes in the walls or missing ceiling tiles that would allow for rapid fire spread

## Storage/Work Areas

- The water heater is set below 125 degrees
- The heating unit is checked and cleaned once a year

### Storage/Work Areas Cont'd

- Area around the heating unit is clean and open (do not use as a storage area)
- The fuse box has the correct size fuse for each circuit
- The dryer lint trap is cleaned after each use
- Cleaning agents are stored in their original containers out of the reach of children
- Avoid unnecessary clutter that adds to fuel loading in your home (newspapers, boxes, unused furniture, toys)

### Garage

- Oily rags and mops with paint, oil, varnish or polish are kept in a covered metal can and disposed of after they are completely dried out (to avoid spontaneous combustion)
- Combustible liquids are kept in tight containers away from heat sources (pilot lights, etc.)
- All gasoline is stored in approved safety cans
- Work areas are kept in order and clear of obstructions
- All chemicals are kept in their original containers and are out of the reach of children
- If portable heaters are used, they are kept in well-ventilated spaces
- The correct fuel is being used in all appliances or machinery
- Lawn mowers and other machinery are kept and refilled outdoors in ventilated areas
- There are no holes in walls or ceilings that would allow for rapid fire spread
- Fire extinguisher is easily accessible and family members know how to use it

### Exterior of the Home

- The address numbers for your home are posted facing the street in a color that contrasts the background of your home and are visible from the street
- If your home has wood shingles, they have been treated with a fire retardant
- All antennas are properly grounded
- Electrical connections are snug
- Gas and charcoal barbecues are stored away from the house
- Propane or butane cylinders are stored outside of the home or garage area
- Weeds and brush are cleared at least 10 feet away from the home

### Have a Fire Escape Plan in Place

In the event of a fire, remember – time is the biggest enemy and every second counts! Escape plans help you and your family get out of your home quickly. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. Visit [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov) for more information.