

# Each year there are fatal victims

## Take particular care with:

- Built-in appliances.
- Appliances that have a ventilator to prevent overheating. These include dryers, microwaves, electric ovens, mechanical ventilation systems, fan heaters, computers, laser printers and hair dryers.

## What you should look out for:

- Accumulated dust increases the risk of fire. Remove dust regularly.
- Keep electronic equipment clean, but take care with water (it can cause short circuits).
- Connect electrical appliances sensibly. For instance, always unroll cable reels completely to prevent overheating. Preferably connect big electricity users such as heaters and deep fryers, directly to a power socket.

## ► Take care with halogen lighting

The dangers of halogen lighting are underestimated. Even low voltage lamps can cause scorch marks and subsequently, a fire. Make sure you keep them away from curtains and furniture. The heat from built-in halogen lighting in a (suspended) ceiling must be able to go somewhere. Always follow the safety instructions.

## ► Take care with electric blankets

Electric blankets also form a fire risk factor because the wiring is susceptible to wear.

- Store electric blankets loosely rolled-up to prevent damage to wiring.
- Unroll the blanket completely each time before use and follow the instructions.



► Careless use of electrical appliances is a frequent cause of house fires. The fire service turns out to thousands of house fires every year. Sometimes there is only material damage. But every year hundreds of people are injured and there are dozens of fatalities.

## ► Heat needs to go somewhere

Almost all electrical appliances become hot during use. This heat needs to go somewhere. If this doesn't happen, a fire can start.

## ► Switch appliances off instead of putting them on standby

If an electrical appliance is on, the components inside the equipment become hot. This applies to such things as your computer's hard drive or television components (particularly those with a cathode ray tube, recognisable from the back, which juts out). The components stay hot if the equipment is on standby (sleep).

This heat, combined with dust inside the device, can cause a fire. Flat screens, such as LCD and LED appliances produce much less heat and therefore attract much less dust. If you can only put your flat screen television on standby, the risk that this will cause a fire is low.

AAN / UIT



## ► Clean filters

### Dryers

The dryer takes the undisputed first place in the list of electrical appliances that can cause fires. This is because hot air and dust are the 'ideal' combination. Prevent overheating by cleaning the filters after each use. Also remove all dust from the air outlet hose once a year. A blocked hose will cause the dryer to overheat and may cause a fire. Don't have the dryer running when you are not at home and do have a professional check the appliance every five years.

### Cooker hoods

Clean or replace the filter once every three months. Grease in the filter can catch fire.

## Electrical appliances

### In this leaflet ...

Electrical appliances are important causes of house fires. The fire service turns out to thousands of house fires every year. Sometimes there is only material damage. But every year hundreds of people are injured and there are dozens of fatalities.

#### ► Microwaves

Only use microwaves for what they are intended for. Pay careful attention to cooking times. Microwaves that are set to stay on too long regularly cause fires.

#### ► More safety tips

- Connect the washing machine to a special washing machine power socket and never to an unearthed socket.
- Take out a maintenance contract for an annual service of your central heating boiler and/or water heater.
- Test Smoke detectors regularly and replace the batteries if necessary.

#### ► What if there is suddenly a fire?

Fires can start in spite of all these precautionary measures and it is vital that you are well-prepared. Our increased use of synthetic materials and electrical appliances enables house fires to spread very quickly. You have just three minutes to leave your home safely. And remember: until the fire service arrives, you're on your own. That's why you should know what to do in the event of fire.

#### ► What should you do?

- Stay calm
- Warn other members of your household
- Keep doors and windows closed and close doors behind you
- If smoke develops stay close to the floor
- Leave the house via the shortest route
- Go to the agreed assembly point and check whether everyone is outside
- Call 112 and give the fire service your name and complete address
- Wait for the fire service and mention any peculiarities



# Electrical appliances

Appliance fire safety tips

