



Fire safety tips for
people who live in

Park Homes

What are the fire risks?

Many park homes (sometimes called mobile homes) look and feel like permanent houses, but behave very differently in a fire.

Because these homes are built differently from brick-built houses, it's important to be aware of the risks as fires can spread more quickly.

By taking a few simple precautions and knowing what to look out for, you can help keep yourself, your family, and your home safe.

Smoke alarms

A smoke alarm in your home can warn you if there is a fire, giving you time to get out safely.

We recommend fitting an **optical smoke alarm** as these respond quickly to slow-burning fires, such as those involving furniture.

Test your smoke alarm every week by pressing the test button to make sure it works.

Charging mobility scooters and e-scooters

- **Do not charge mobility scooters or e-scooters inside your home.**
- Charging batteries indoors can cause fires that spread very quickly.
- Always charge them in a safe, suitable place and follow the [NFCC's Charge Safe advice](#).

Carbon monoxide alarms

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a dangerous gas you cannot see, smell or taste, and is known as the 'Silent Killer'.

A carbon monoxide alarm detects dangerous gases made when fuels like gas, oil, coal or wood do not burn properly.

Have all fuel-burning appliances, including bottled gas equipment, serviced **once a year**.

CO can be deadly and the only way to detect it is with a CO alarm.

Test your CO alarm every week by pressing the test button to make sure it works.

Cooking safety

When cooking in your home, it is important that you never leave your cooker unattended, especially when children or pets are present.

Turn the handles away from the edge of the cooker to reduce the risk of the pan being knocked off.

Keep curtains, towels, paper, and other items that can catch fire away from the cooker.

Keep worktops near cooking equipment free from paper and other sources of fuel.

Make sure you have a fire blanket in your kitchen area near or next to the cooker, especially if you use a chip pan.

Remember to check your fire blanket frequently to ensure it is still fit for purpose and has no signs of wear and tear.

Fire safety or site concerns

By law, Model Standards 2008 for Caravan Sites in England states that the minimum distance between homes is 6 metres.

If you have any safety concerns, they should be raised with the site manager (fire safety can be escalated to the Fire Service, if needed).

Electrical appliances

Check appliances regularly to make sure electrical wiring is in good condition. Have them tested by a qualified electrician, where possible.

- Never use appliances with damaged plugs or cables.
- Keep cables clear of heavy objects to prevent damage and reduce fire risk.
- Switch off heaters, cookers, and TVs before going to bed or leaving your mobile home.
- Never cover or block heaters.
- Do not overload sockets or use multi adaptors.
- Fully unwind extension leads to prevent overheating.
- Store gas cylinders outside the home, unless they are kept in a properly ventilated or fire-resistant container.

Smoking and using candles

- Always put cigarettes out properly.
- **Use a metal or glass ashtray**, not plastic.
- Never smoke in bed – you could fall asleep and start a fire.
- Keep matches and lighters away from children.
- Charge e-cigarettes and vapes only as the manufacturer advises.
- Emollient creams can soak into clothing and make it catch fire more easily near naked flames.
- Always put candles, incense and wax melts on a fireproof base, not on furniture or other surfaces as they can get very hot.
- Don't leave candles unattended, near curtains, or where pets or children can knock them over.

Escape routes

You may never need it, but it's important to have a fire escape plan.

- Make sure everyone in your home knows the plan, and how to open doors and windows.
- Plan a second way out in case the main door is blocked, such as a window.
- Keep door and window keys where they are easy to find.
- Always keep exits clear so everyone can escape quickly and safely.
- If there is smoke, stay low where the air is clearer.
- Get out as soon as you can, call the Fire and Rescue Service, and do not go back inside.

Safe storage

Empty Gas cylinders and wheelie bins should never be stored against your home or fencing.

These should be kept a safe distance away from your home and other combustible surfaces to help prevent fire spreading should these catch fire.

Do not store any combustible items/ materials underneath your home.

What to do if there is a fire in your home

In the event of a fire:

Stay Calm:

- Follow your evacuation plan and get to a safe space.

Call 999:

- Ask for the fire and rescue service.
- Help us find you – Provide an accurate location of your home.
- Wait in a safe location for firefighters to arrive and guide them to the scene of the incident.

Do not tackle the fire by yourself.

Get out. Stay out. Call 999.

For more information on home fire safety, scan the QR code below or visit rbfrs.co.uk/yoursafety



**ROYAL BERKSHIRE
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE**