

Spring CLEAN UP

A good spring cleaning often means hard work on the part of the homeowner; lifting, climbing, scrubbing, scraping, and using strong cleaning solutions. It also means we must turn our attention to fire safety in the home.

The Home Safety Council urges families to keep the following safe practices in mind while cleaning to keep your home fire safe:

- When cleaning out closets or re-organizing, keep stairs, steps, and landings clear for a safe evacuation path.
- Reduce clutter and safely tuck telephone and electrical cords away from walkways.
- Follow safety recommendations when using harsh products, such as wearing gloves and masks. Do not mix products together because the contents could result in a flammable environment.
- Never use gasoline as a cleaning solvent, and never use or store gasoline in your home, even in tiny quantities. Because its vapors can readily ignite, it is too dangerous to use gasoline for any purpose other than as a motor fuel.
- Check to be sure flammable and combustible liquids are stored outside in a locking shed or garage. Gasoline must never be stored or used in your home, even in small quantities.
- Store matches, lighters, and candles in a locked cabinet, out of children's reach.
- Replace your smoke alarm batteries and ensure that they are working properly.
- Ensure your carbon monoxide detector is working properly.
- If you have a fire extinguisher, learn how to use it and install it properly; children should not be permitted to handle a fire extinguisher.
- Use safety covers in electrical outlets and anti-scald devices in faucets in homes with young children.
- Test the temperature of your hot water. If it is more than 120 degrees Fahrenheit, a child's skin can burn in seconds.

Fire Safety