

Cooking in the Kitchen

Safety tips for cooking in the kitchen

The kitchen is one of the most common places for a fire to start in the home. Every year accidental house fires cause extensive property loss and damage.

Most home fires are accidental and preventable – you can take action to minimise your risk. The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) educates people about how to prevent home fires, and individuals have a responsibility to reduce the risk of fires in their own homes. A good place to start is in the kitchen with a few simple safety measures.



Safety tips for cooking in the kitchen:

- When cooking, never leave food unattended on a stove
- Avoid wearing loose clothing when cooking as it may catch alight
- Never hang items such as tea towels near stoves or on cooking appliances
- Take care when cooking with fats and oils
- Turn off cooking appliances after use
- Clean and maintain cooking appliances, exhaust fans and rangehood filters

If oil or fat catches alight:

- Turn off the heat source
- Do not try to move flaming oil or fat
- Cover with a lid or wooden chopping board
- Use a fire blanket if you have one

Fire Blankets

Fire blankets can be used to extinguish small fires in the home.

Safety tips:

- ▶ Store fire blankets in or adjacent to a kitchen but not too close to a potential hazard such as above a stove
- ▶ It is important to purchase a fire blanket that carries the Australian Standards Mark AS 3504
- ▶ Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when using a fire blanket
- ▶ DFES recommends that fire blankets should only be used once and then replaced



Never throw water on burning fat or oil as it will explode and cause the fire to spread

In the event of a fire

- Crawl low under smoke
- Assist or alert any people in danger, but only if it is safe to do so
- Go to your safe meeting place, such as your letter box
- Call **000** (triple zero)
- Wait for firefighters to arrive
- Do not re-enter a burning house under any circumstances

For more information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au or contact **DFES Community Engagement 9395 9816**

