



Burning Issues: Fire Prevention Tips for Inside the Cottage:

- 1) Cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the province. Don't leave your stove unattended. Have an extinguisher nearby.
- 2) Don't leave fireplaces and candles unattended. With candles, make sure they are sturdily secured and blown out when you leave.
- 3) Check and clean your chimney and fuel-burning appliances before using them. Ensure there are no chimney blockages.
- 4) Have your chimney and fireplace cleaned and inspected for creosote build-up, cracks, crumbling bricks or mortar. Burn dry, well-seasoned wood to minimize creosote build-up. Use a screened chimney cap to catch sparks and embers.
- 5) Have gas appliances checked by a technician regularly.
- 6) Install a propane leak alarm at floor level – no more than 6 inches above the floor. Propane is heavier than air and pools in low lying areas.
- 7) Properly dispose of ashes from your wood burning appliances. Place ashes in a covered metal container at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn.
- 8) Store all flammable liquids in approved containers OUTSIDE of the cottage. Never store gasoline, propane or other highly flammable liquids inside or adjacent to the cottage. Never store near sources of heat or open flame. Dispose of old cleaning solvents, fuels and paints at a hazardous waste facility.

Extinguisher Tips

- Also keep in mind that the dry powder chemical inside the extinguisher tends to pack down in the bottom of the extinguisher over time, which may make it ineffective. Once a month, pick up the fire extinguisher, check the gauge or pin for pressure, turn it upside down and hit the bottom sharply with your hand, then shake it well. This should dislodge any compacted dry chemical inside the extinguisher. Most fire extinguishers have a lifespan of 5 to 15 years.
- Most residential fire extinguishers discharge in 8-10 seconds with a range of only 2 to 3.5 metres (6 to 10 feet). They should only be used to extinguish small, contained fires or to reduce a fire sufficiently to allow escape.

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