

Home Safety Checklist

- Smoke alarms sound when test button pressed.
- Carbon monoxide alarm in hallway outside bedrooms and sounds when test button pressed. If bedrooms are off different hallways, you may need more than one. How do you tell if a smoke alarm is also a carbon monoxide alarm? The test siren for a smoke alarm is long steady beeps. The test siren for a carbon monoxide alarm is three short beeps. If the alarm makes both of these sounds (one after the other), it is most likely a smoke/CO combination alarm.
- Smoke and CO alarms are not older than ten years. The test button only tests if the siren works. It does not test whether the alarm detects smoke or carbon monoxide. The manufacturers only deem them reliable to detect smoke for ten years. CO alarms are deemed reliable for five or ten years. With your parent's permission or their help, remove one of the alarms and look at the back. Most have a manufacture date. If the manufacture date is ten years old or older, replace them.
- Dryer vent outside is clear of lint.
- Dryer vent not clogged. Turn on the dryer and make sure air comes out of the vent on the outside of the house.
- Check outlets and switches are safe. The plastic on the outlet/switch and outlet/switch cover plates should not be cracked or broken.
- Bathroom ceiling fan covers are free of dirt and dust. This is a fire hazard. If the vent cover is dirty it can usually be cleaned by vacuuming it. The cover will also need pulled down so the motor behind the vent cover can also be vacuumed clean.
- There is a cover over the sump pump pit if you have one.
- There are no combustible materials within one foot of the furnace or water heater.
- There is an easily accessible fire extinguisher in your house and family members know how to use it.
- Push the test button on your GFCI outlets in the bathroom and kitchen to make sure they work. Pushing the test button should 'pop' the outlet off. Pushing the reset button should restore power to the outlet.