

HOME FIRE SAFETY INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Use this form to complete a fire and safety inspection on your home or condo at Wintergreen Resort or Nelson County. All Wintergreen Resort residents should review the WPOA covenants and restrictions regarding open fires, grills, etc. If you have any questions, please contact one of our stations.

EXTERIOR

- Ensure home address numbers are a minimum of 3 inches tall and clearly visible from the street. If home is more than 50 feet from the street, post address numbers at the driveway
- Remove leaves/debris from roof, eaves, and gutters
- Keep grill 3 feet from house and overhangs when in use
- Trim trees away from overhead lines and chimneys.
- Gas grills shall not be placed on wood decks.
- No open fire pits allowed on the Wintergreen Resort master plan.

SMOKE ALARMS & CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) ALARMS

- Install smoke alarms inside each bedroom, outside sleeping area (hallway) and on every level of the home
- Install CO alarms in a central location outside sleeping areas and on every level of the home
- Replace smoke alarm units every 10 years and CO alarm units every 7 years (or earlier if recommended by the manufacturer) and dispose of properly
- Test smoke and CO alarms once a month; use a broom handle to reach ceiling mounted units
- Units with removable batteries, replace batteries every six months (use Daylights Savings Time as a reminder or when you change the time on your clocks)
- Best practice is to have both photoelectric (which detects smoldering fires faster) and ionization (which detects flaming fires faster) alarm units. There are combination alarm units which do both along with combination alarm units with CO alarms built in

ELECTRICAL

- Do not overload electrical outlets; additional outlets should be installed by a qualified electrician
- Purchase and use extension cords with the surge protector safety feature
- Appliances should be plugged directly into outlets
- Inspect electrical cords for damage; electrical cords should never be frayed, cracked, pinned to the wall, or placed under rugs
- Maintain air space around electrical equipment (TV, DVD, etc.)
- Kitchen and bathroom outlets that are near countertop surfaces within 6 feet of running water should have a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter outlet (GFCI)
- If there are young children in the home, install tamper-resistant outlets or outlet safety covers
- Make sure light bulbs are the appropriate wattage for the fixture
- Make sure the electrical panel is accessible

HEATING EQUIPMENT, FIREPLACE, AND APPLIANCES

- Keep combustibles at least 3 feet away from space heaters and fireplace (ex: curtains, clothing, dog beds, etc.)
- Ensure space heaters are equipped with an automatic shut-off function, plugged directly into an outlet, and are UL Listed
- Do not use propane heaters inside the home or use the oven to heat the home
- Replace furnace filters regularly per manufacturer guidelines
- Keep clutter and other combustibles away from the water heater and furnace
- Remove lint from clothes dryer after each cycle and clean exhaust duct (flexible tube) annually

- Install a spark arrestor on chimney and have the chimney inspected and cleaned annually
- Dispose of BBQ and fireplace ashes in a metal container at least 3 feet away for combustibles

FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

- Limit the amount of all chemicals stored in the home
- Store hazardous materials away from heat sources in containers with tight-fitting lids and correct identification labels
- Allow for ample ventilation when using flammable liquids and/or hazardous materials
- Store oily rags in an airtight metal container; oily rags placed in a pile can spontaneously ignite
- Dispose of household hazardous materials properly

COOKING SAFETY

- Never leave cooking unattended; set a timer as a reminder
- Clean hood vent periodically
- Keep sleeves away from stove and turn pot handles inward when cooking to prevent burn injuries
- Do not store combustibles in oven or on top of stove

SMOKING & CANDLES

- Never leave burning cigarettes or candles unattended
- Never smoke in bed
- Use ashtrays that have a center support feature
- Empty ashtrays into a fireproof container
- Place candles in sturdy, fireproof, holders at least 12 inches away from combustibles (curtains, clothing, etc.)
- Avoid using candles in the bedroom and other areas where occupants may fall asleep
- Best practice is to only smoke outside

FIRE EXTINGUISHERS

- Install multipurpose (ABC) extinguishers so they are visible and accessible (near kitchen and garage)
- Operate a fire extinguisher by using the P.A.S.S. method: Pull the pin, Aim at the base of the fire, Squeeze, and Sweep the extinguisher side-to-side
- Inspect extinguishers annually: pin should be secure, pressure gauge reads green, and rotate extinguisher annually to loosen powder
- Discard extinguishers properly

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Secure throw rugs where they may be a trip hazard or the residents have mobility issues.
- Hallways, staircases, pathways are free of obstructions
- Keep bedroom doors closed at night
- Water heater temperature set at 120 Fahrenheit

HOME ESCAPE PLAN

- Know two exits out of every room
- Crawl low under smoke to escape fire
- Identify a safe meeting place outside near the front of the house for firefighters to know you are out
- Dial 9-1-1 from a neighbor's phone or cell phone to report a fire
- Once out, stay out!
- Practice your home escape plan with every member of the household every 6 months
- If you have a family member that is disabled, let us know by reporting your "Special Circumstance"

FIREWISE CHECKLIST

- To reduce ember penetration, replace or repair loose or missing roof shingles or tiles, and caulk any gaps or opening or roof edges
- Cover exterior attic vents and enclose under-eave and soffit vents with metal wire mesh no larger than 1/8 inch to prevent embers from entering the home
- Remove items stored under decks or porches; replace vegetation in these areas with rock or gravel
- Replace mulch with hardscaping, including rock, gravel, or stone. If it can catch fire, don't let it touch you house, deck, or porch
- Remove flammable items within 30 feet of all structures including firewood piles, portable propane tanks, and dry and dead vegetation
- Dry grass and shrubs are fuel for wildfire, so keep your lawn hydrated and maintained. If it is brown, trim it to reduce fire intensity, and don't let debris and lawn cuttings linger. Dispose of these items quickly to reduce fuel for fire
- Fire can spread to tree tops. If you have tall trees on your property, prune low hanging branches 6 to 10 feet from the ground and for smaller trees, prune low hanging branches no more than a third of the tree's height. Remove tall grasses, vines, and shrubs from under trees
- Talk to you neighbors and create a plan for how to address your wildfire safety challenges together

Learn more about how to keep your family safe and reduce your home's risk for wildfire damage at [firewise.org](https://www.firewise.org)