

# Check your home now for these fire hazards

A few minutes checking your home for fire hazards, and getting rid of them, could save your family's lives.

Fire hazards in the form of clutter and flammable materials such as paint thinner can accumulate in the cleanest of homes, and can be lethal.

Electrical wiring can wear out and become dangerous, heating equipment -- particularly wood stoves -- requires regular safety checks.

Fire officials at the Ministry of the Solicitor General recommend regular checks of your home for fire hazards.

Start in the kitchen -- kitchen fires are the most frequent type of home fires. Can window curtains

graze your stove top, toaster or other hot surface? Is the stove and the hood above it collecting grease? Do you store paper products close to the stove? Do you keep a pan of fat on the back burner? Don't -- if you turn on the wrong burner by mistake, you could have a bad fire.

The kitchen is an excellent place to keep a multi-purpose fire extinguisher. Be sure it's bracketed to the wall at an exit, and make sure everyone in the family knows how to use it. Read the label, it tells you everything you need to know.

Faulty wiring and electrical equipment are the second major cause of fatal home fires. Frayed or damaged electrical cords, ex-

ension cords used as permanent wiring or draped over nails or hidden under the rug, damaged or spliced appliance cords, bare wires, appliance plugs that heat up--these are examples of fires waiting to happen.

If you regularly use "octopus plugs" (sockets which multiply the use of one socket), or extension cords; or if you frequently blow fuses, or the lights dim when the fridge kicks in, your household wiring may be overloaded. It's time to have it checked and upgraded by a qualified electrician. The cost is minor compared to the damage a fire can cause.

Check the basement (particularly around the furnace) for clutter

and flammables such as floor wax, paint thinner, tins of varnish and so forth. Do not store combustibles under the stairs. Be especially vigilant about oily rags, which can ignite by themselves and start a fire. Have the furnace serviced regularly by an expert, and keep the air filter clean.

If you have a woodstove or fire place, make sure the chimney is cleaned frequently -- at least once a year. Creosote -- the gummy, tar-like material that builds up in chimneys -- can be set on fire by heat.

Make sure that all the doors are free from obstructions, and that the windows open easily. If you need to escape during a fire, that

isn't the time to unstuck the window you painted shut last summer. Children must be taught that it is OK to smash a window or screen with a suitable object if the window is stuck.

During your inspection tour, check the smoke alarms -- make sure they are free of dust, and test them by holding a lighted incense stick or a bit of smoldering string under them.

Invite your children to join you as you check for fire hazards, and take some time to make sure they understand what to do in case of a fire.

Regular fire inspections don't take long, but if a fire kills you, you're dead for a long time.






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**ZENAS ADAMS HOUSE**  
Southeast corner Main and Church Sts.

The oldest surviving dwelling in Acton, this house was built about 1830. In 1828, Zenas took up the farm lot at the southeast corner of present day Mill and Main Sts. Having replaced a primitive log cabin the house was framed in Esquesing yellow pine. The clapboard structure was originally much larger than it presently appears as it was stretched to fit a family of eleven children, and their two grandparents. The Adams kept a spare room known as "the prophet's chamber" where visiting ministers were accommodated. The Reverend Zenas Adams preached the first sermon ever delivered in the locality, opposite Worden's farm (Note Worden View Rd. off Highway 7 at 5th Line). He died in 1847 and a few years later his widow, and the balance of the family, moved to Toronto. For much of the rest of its years the house has been rented to as many as seven families at one time.

In this century the property was purchased by a local contractor who reduced the size of the house, remodeled the interior and converted it into a duplex. The siding is of a recent date.

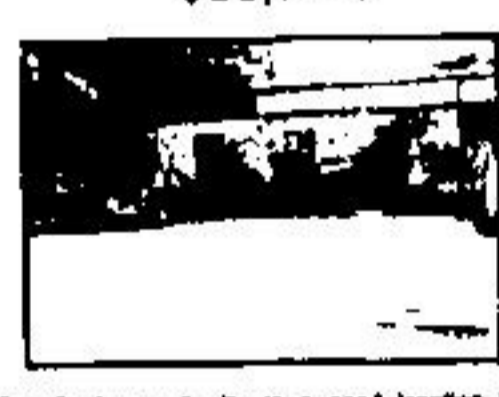
Many thanks, to Mark Rowe, President Esquesing Historical Society and Walter Lewis

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