

The Heat is On!

Preventing heat dangers

Modern homes are full of possible dangers involving heat – hot bath water, ovens, boiling saucepans, hair straighteners, irons, toasters, etc.

Remember that hot items aren't just dangerous because they might burn or scald you; if left unattended they could start a fire. Keep them in secure places, out of reach of younger children or pets, and away from anything flammable (that could catch fire easily).

Some potential dangers:

Hair straighteners and dryers - Some come with cool bags, where they can be stored after use. Unplug them as soon as you've finished with them – remember that they stay hot for a while. Keep them away from flammable surfaces, even if they're switched off.

Other electrical devices that can get hot - Examples include lamps, laptops, mobile phone chargers, irons, kettles and toasters.

Don't leave things to charge for long periods of time and switch things off rather than leaving them on 'standby' – it's better for the environment too! Make sure cables aren't left loose and dangling where someone can knock them and pull over the hot item.



Hot liquids - A 'scald' is a burn from hot liquid. When running hot water in the bath or sink, run the cold tap first and then just add as much hot water as you need. If you're preparing a bath for a baby or child, test the temperature of the water with your elbow. Don't overfill saucepans and make sure chip fryers are not more than a third full of oil.

Hot drinks - Rest hot drinks in secure places, away from table edges or places they can be knocked over easily.

Case Study: Cooking

Cooking for the family can be fun but you need to be careful, as kitchens are dangerous! [Add stats]

It's important to:

- use oven gloves to handle hot pans and dishes
- keep saucepans to the back of the cooker – make sure handles aren't hanging over the cooker edge (where they can be knocked over) - remember that metal objects conduct heat quickly
- keep flammable materials (e.g. tea towels, cook books) well away from the heat
- check the cooker is switched off when you've finished.

