

Electrical

- Extension cords should only be used to provide temporary power and should not be used in a place of permanent wiring.
- Immediately throw away any worn, damaged, brittle or cracked extension cords or power strips.
- Never place extension cords under carpets or rugs.
- Do not attach extension cords to structures with nails or staples, this can damage cords and cause a fire.
- Never use extension cords in tandem, (daisy chaining) plugging one extension cord into another.
- Extension cords should always be cool to the touch when in use, immediately unplug any extension cord that is hot.
- Only use power strips that are equipped with a built-in circuit breaker.
- Plug only one power strip at a time into a dual electric outlet.
- Do not plug power strips into extension cords or other power strips (daisy chaining).
- Use only extension cords and power strips that have been approved by a national testing agency such as Underwriter's Laboratory or Factory Manual.
- Any modifications to a structure's electrical system should be conducted by a licensed electrician and inspected by the state electrical inspector.



Cooking

- Most home fires start in the kitchen.
- Keep all combustibles away from, cooking surfaces, pot holders, pizza boxes, towels, cooking oil, plastic utensils, etc.
- Never use water to extinguish a grease fire.
- Keep cooking surfaces and kitchen clean.
- Keep an ABC fire extinguisher in or near the kitchen.
- Never leave cooking appliances unattended, unless they are designed for such purposes

Building Modification

Some tenants in order to reduce expenses will crowd as many people as possible into an apartment. Garages, basements, attics, closets, and utility rooms may not be suitable for use as bedrooms. These areas may not have adequate heating, ventilation, egress routes or fire protection. Please contact Kittitas Valley Fire and Rescue, City of Ellensburg or Kittitas County Community Development if you plan to make ANY changes to your apartment.

If you have any questions about fire safety, KVFR can help answer them or get the answers for you.

Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue

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Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue

SAFETY CONCERNS FOR LANDLORDS AND RENTERS

IMPORTANT SAFETY
INFORMATION INSIDE



Save, Serve, and Protect

509.933.7252



Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors save lives. Landlords are required by law to provide working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors initially when a tenant moves into an apartment. Once the tenant moves in they must maintain existing smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, including cleaning and replacing batteries.

Disabling detectors is not only dangerous but it is illegal and may result in a fine and or prison time.

- Each sleeping unit should have at least one working smoke detector.
- Means of egress such as hallways should be protected by smoke detectors.
- Follow manufactures recommendations for installation instructions or call Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue for assistance.

Fire Extinguishers

Landlords are required to provide at least one 1A5BC fire extinguisher within each dwelling unit or 2A10BC in public areas such as hallways, laundry rooms or community areas. Travel distance to the nearest fire extinguisher should never exceed 75 feet. Fire extinguishers must be serviced annually by a qualified technician to ensure proper function



Escape Plan

Plan at least two escape routes from each sleeping unit or living area, and then practice your plan often. Ensure proper window function in rooms using windows as a second means of escape.



Renters Insurance

Only 1 in 10 renters have insurance on their apartments. Renters insurance is inexpensive. Fires and other unfortunate events may damage or destroy all your personal possessions, don't be caught off guard. If you are not currently insured call an insurance agent TODAY.

Smoking

Smoking is the number one cause of fire fatalities. If you must smoke please follow these basic guidelines:

- Never smoke in bed or if you are tired or intoxicated.
- Provide and use heavy deep ash trays inside and outdoors.
- Empty ashtrays often into nonflammable containers.
- Keeps all smoking material including lighters and matches out of children's reach.

Heating

- Space heaters are not recommended for residential use.
- If you must use a space heater give them space. Keep space heaters at least 3 feet from combustibles (Furniture, clothing, curtains, etc.).
- Plug space heaters directly into a receptacle, never into extension cords.
- Unplug space heaters when not in use.
- Do not use space heaters to dry clothing, towels, shoes, etc.
- Follow all manufactures directions.

Wood Stoves

- Clean and inspect your chimney at least once a year.
- Never burn trash or any other unapproved materials in your stove.
- If you are installing a wood stove in your home the stove must meet current Department of Ecology requirements. Beware of used bargain stoves.
- Dispose of ashes outside in noncombustible containers.
- Follow all manufactures recommendations.
- Install a working carbon monoxide detector.

