

CALCULATE YOUR HOME'S I.Q.*



* Inflammable Quotient = the level of fire risk your home represents

Sécurité publique
Québec



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THE RIGHT EQUATION:

YOUR HOME + A SMOKE DETECTOR ON EVERY FLOOR = A GREAT WAY TO ENJOY YOUR LIFE IN PERFECT SAFETY



Smoke detectors are your best friends in case of fire. Check them regularly to make sure they're working. It's advisable to gently clean the interior of the covers with a vacuum cleaner and, especially, to **replace the batteries at least once a year**. After 10 years of use, you should replace your smoke detectors.

Ionization detectors are the most common and are especially effective around flames. **Never take the batteries out of your smoke detector!** To avoid false alarms when you take a shower or cook, you can install your smoke detector a little farther away instead.

Also get some photoelectric detectors. They're recommended mainly because they detect sparks that are smoldering (for example, a cigarette burning in a chair or bed, an electrical wire that catches fire under a rug, etc.). Less sensitive to false alarms, these detectors are recommended for near kitchens and bathrooms.

Did you know that in 60% of fatal fires, the smoke detector was missing, or disconnected, or out of date? It can't be said often enough—your smoke detector can save your life, as well as limiting damage.

THE EVIDENCE IS CONCLUSIVE: A LOW I.Q. FOR YOUR HOME CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE!

All too often, we see fires break out in homes that are otherwise completely safe. Actually, everyday negligence causes many thousands of fires every year and turns the lives of too many families upside down. After the fact, it's painful to admit that a little bit of caution would have avoided the catastrophe.

The equation is simple! **Your home's I.Q.** depends on the care of the people who live in it. So don't play with fire get busy and reduce the risks right away!

Source : Ministère de la Sécurité publique, *La sécurité incendie au Québec, Quelques chiffres*, édition 2002.

REDUCE YOUR HOME'S RISK

FIRE-SAFE SHOPPING LIST

- Deep fryer with thermostat
- Smoke detectors (CSA approved)
- 9 v batteries for smoke detectors
- Kitchen timer
- Kitchen fire extinguisher (ABC-type)
- Multi-outlet strip
- Stable and safe candleholders
- Metal container for storing ashes



Sécurité publique
Québec

Direction des communications
(418) 644-6826 • 1 866 644-6826
www.msp.gouv.qc.ca

Desjardins
General Insurance

Assets and Values

Claims (24 h emergency service)
(418) 835-9100 • 1 800 361-4641
www.desjardinsgeneralinsurance.com

PREVENTING FIRES IS NOT AN EXACT SCIENCE, BUT...

We hope you'll be happy with the score you get from doing this little I.Q. Quiz. Please read the following to feel even safer in your home.

SMOKER OR NON-SMOKER: TAKE CARE!

Does someone smoke in your home?

Here are the facts

In 2001 in Quebec, smokers' supplies—including matches and lighters—caused more than 1,175 fires, and negligence by smokers was the cause of three deaths in 10.

You can never be too careful...

If someone smokes in your home, don't throw out the butts or ashes without wetting them first—even if they seem to be completely extinguished. **Embers can smoulder under ashes for 72 hours** and start a fire many hours later. Before going to bed, take the time to look under and around upholstered furniture and cushions in case a cigarette might have fallen. Last, no one should ever smoke in your home lying down.

GEE WHIZ!

What do you do if there's a fire in your pan?

Here are the facts

Stoves (elements and ovens) are the cause in more than one fire in 10 in Quebec, which means nearly 1,350 fires every year. In 40% of the cases, vegetable oil, grease or other fats such as butter and margarine fuelled the fire.

You can never be too careful...

The best device for frying foods is a deep fryer with a thermostat. If you don't have one, use a saucepan, but remember—always roll up your sleeves*. Heat up your oil **SLOWLY**: it will catch fire if it's heated too fast. Never salt your food over hot oil—it's highly dangerous.

IF THE OIL CATCHES FIRE

Immediately grab the cover of the saucepan, a cookie tray or, even better, a portable ABC-type fire extinguisher to smother the fire quickly. **Never try to put out a stove fire with water.**

YOU HAVE TO LEAVE THE KITCHEN TO GO AND ANSWER THE DOOR?

Turn off the elements on your stove first. Always, no matter what type of cooking you're doing, find something to remind you that there's a pot on the stove in the kitchen. For example, use a kitchen timer or even a wooden spoon that you keep in your hand.

* If your clothes catch fire, don't panic! Lie down on the floor, protect your face with your hands and roll over several times to smother the flames.



TO PLUG OR NOT TO PLUG... PROPERLY

How long has it been since you checked the condition of your plugs and extension cords?

Here are the facts

Every year, 10% of fires are started by defective electrical equipment and by the dangerous or improper use of electrical products, including plugs and extension cords.

You can never be too careful...

The third prong on a three-pronged plug is used as the ground wire. So never try to remove it or bend it to insert the plug into a two-hole outlet (you're asking for an electrical fire!). Never run electrical wires under a rug, over a hook or in exposed areas: wear can make them dangerous.

Throw out any damaged electrical wires and extension cords.

Outdoor extensions should be protected and kept dry. Always use the appropriate type, indoor or outdoor, and a gage that complies with what you're using it for.

Otherwise, don't use them.

Make sure that your stereo system and computer are not plugged into the same outlet or an extension cord. You'll avoid the worst by plugging them into a multi-outlet strip with a surge protector.



AN ATMOSPHERE OF ROMANCE...

Do you drift away?

Here are the facts

Over the last few years, more and more fires have been caused by lighted candles left unattended.

You can never be too careful...

Of course you know that you have to keep flames out of the reach of children and pets. But are you sure to always be nearby when a candle is lit?

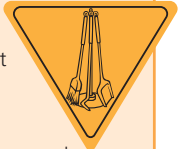
Make sure that the flame is always contained, for example by a chimney, and make sure you have stable candle holders. Your candles should never be in danger of falling. Avoid candleholders made of wood or plastic. They can catch fire when your candle burns completely down and start a fire in your home.

Candles that have dried flowers in them are charming, but very dangerous—blow them out before the flame burns down to the decoration! In fact, a candle should never burn down to more than 5 cm from its base.

ARE THE HOMEFIRES BURNING IN YOUR WOOD STOVE OR FIREPLACE?

READ THIS

A fire smouldering under ashes is dangerous—be smart when you dispose of ashes!



Even if the fire in your wood stove or fireplace seems to be out, wait at least 72 hours before getting rid of the ashes.

Embers and sparks, even though you don't see them, are still alive and present an ENORMOUS fire risk.

Always put your cold ashes in a metal container with feet and store them away from materials that can burn. **Never put ashes on a wooden deck or in a bin that's close to your home.**