



Austin Fire Department

Emergency Prevention Division / Fire Marshall's Office
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Adoption and Foster Care Inspections

State regulations require that persons applying for approval to become adoptive or foster (child or adult) parents receive a fire safety inspection of the home. The Austin Fire Department has developed this checklist in an effort to assist the applicants in preparing for their inspection.

A typical home fire safety inspection will examine the following items...

- **Address Numbers**
 - Address numbers must be clearly visible from the street. The numbers need to be on the front of the home as opposed to painted on the curb where they can be easily blocked by parked vehicles or vegetation.
- **Smoke Detectors**
 - Smoke detectors must be provided in each bedroom and in the corridor adjoining the bedrooms.
 - A room designed to be used as a bedroom but currently used for other purposes, i.e. office, must still comply with this requirement.
 - In addition to those required in sleeping rooms, in multi-story homes a smoke detector to cover the upper floor(s), must be located at the top of the stairs.
 - There must be means available (step stool, stick, etc.) for the inspector to test the function of the smoke detectors.
- **Fire Extinguishers**
 - A fire extinguisher of at least a 2A 10B:C rating must be mounted in a readily accessible location. Often this is under the kitchen sink, a pantry, a utility room, or even near the garage pedestrian door if the door is readily accessible to the kitchen area. No matter the location, residents need to be made aware of the extinguisher's location.
 - In two-story homes, a minimum of a 1A 10B:C rated extinguisher must be mounted upstairs in a readily accessible location. This is in addition to the 2A 10B:C rated extinguisher previously described.
 - Unless purchased within the preceding 12 months, each fire extinguisher must have an inspection tag showing that it has been serviced within the past 12 months. If an extinguisher has been purchased within the past 12 months, a sales receipt must be presented showing date of purchase.

- **Inspection will also include...**
 - HVAC closets and water heater areas will be checked for improper storage. There can be no chemicals stored in the closets or combustible items stored within 24" of the units.
 - Gas water heaters in enclosed garages should be at least 18 inches above floor level so flammable vapors cannot collect around the water heater.
 - Areas around and behind clothes dryers will be checked for accumulations of lint.
 - Each bedroom must have at least one operable window with a minimum clear opening of 24 inches high by 20 inches wide. Any means to open the window, and any security bars that may be present, must be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys or tools. Burglar bars covering required emergency exits must have "quick release" mechanisms
 - Double key dead bolts (the type that requires a key to unlock from the inside) are not permitted. Thumb-turn deadbolts, night latches, security chains, surface mounted slide bolts and flush mounted bolts are allowable.
 - Gasoline stored in attached garages must be kept in approved containers. Any other chemicals present must be properly stored.