



Air mattress safety information

Information for patients



Risk associated with air mattresses

In September 2022 statistics for England show, over 75% of fire-related fatalities were in private homes. Smoking materials were responsible for around a quarter of these fatalities.

The risk of harm from fire is increased where an air mattress is in use and increased further still where patients are using oil-based emollients i.e ointments, creams, lotions, soap substitutes, sprays, leave on products. The addition of oxygen therapy to the room will raise this risk higher still. A fire started in this environment will burn more rapidly and will make escape from the fire more difficult.

If a mattress is punctured by a cigarette, vape or hot electrical item the air in the mattress will be released, and the pump will continue to work, as it tries to inflate the mattress. This increased flow of air can fan smoldering into flame...and then turn burning into rapid burning.

Following this guidance will minimise the likelihood of both fire and fatality in your home.

Always follow safety advice when using an air mattress

Top tips for safety

1	Do not smoke...or vape...or burn candles in a room when: • An air mattress is in use • There is a person on oxygen therapy • Oil-based emollients have been used on the patient.
2	Do not place hot electrical items such as hair dryers and straighteners on an air mattress.
3	Wash all bedding and air mattress covers with warm soapy water to minimise the build-up of oil-based emollients.
4	Never use heated blankets with air mattresses.
5	Do not charge electrical items on the bed and never overnight. This includes mobile phones and tablet based computers.
6	Keep heaters and fires away from air mattresses.
7	Do not allow your pets on the air mattress as there is a high risk of deflation.

For quit smoking support call, text or chat online to their friendly stop smoking advisors – visit www.quitready.co.uk or call 0345 646 66 66

Stop smoking advisors are available
Monday-Friday (9am-7pm) and
10am-2pm on Saturdays

Do you have a working smoke alarm?

Working smoke alarms were fitted in less than 30% of the homes where the fire fatalities occurred. Ensure that you have a working smoke alarm in the room where the air mattress is in use and ideally enough to cover all areas in the home. Consider asking the Fire and Rescue Service to carry out a free Home Safety Check in which you may be eligible for the fitting of free smoke alarms.

LEICESTERSHIRE

FIRE and RESCUE SERVICE

Overleaf you can read what is involved in a Home Safety Check and how to make a referral. If you decide to request a visit you will need to provide a contact number, along with your consent to the visit.

Would you benefit from a personal alarm to call for help in an emergency?

Please visit the website below for further details

[Lifelines, telecare and alarms - Leicestershire County Council](#)

You can make a self-referral or someone can support you with this via the website below

[Making a Referral - First Contact Plus](#)

On request personal alarm services will contact the Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service to link the lifeline to your smoke alarm which will detect a fire within your home and call for help.

A home safety check

This is a service carried out by Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service and its partners and takes place at your home, lasting approximately 30 minutes. Its aim is to keep you safe and well within your home.

Fire Service members gather information to help determine the risk in your home. They will seek to identify hazards including the following:

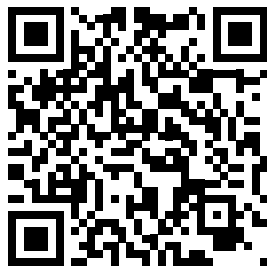
- Smoking in the home
- Use of candles
- Cooking arrangements
- Means of heating the home
- Use of electrical appliances

In addition to providing advice on the prevention of fire, smoke alarms may be fitted to provide early warning in the event of an outbreak of fire. (The subsequent maintenance and replacement of these becomes the responsibility of the homeowner).

They will advise on an escape plan, an end-of-the-day checklist and means of alerting the Fire Service to a fire in your home.

To make a referral use the QR code below or via the website address: frs.egressforms.com/Form/HomeFireSafetyCheck

**If you
need help to
understand this
leaflet or would like it
in a different language
or format such as
large print, Braille or
audio, please ask a
member of
staff.**



**Leaflet created with the
support of Leicestershire
Fire and Rescue Service**

Date implemented: April 2023
Review date: April 2025
Leaflet No. 634 Edition 1