Kitchen Safety

Fire Safety

Kitchens are one of the commonest places for fires to start in the home. Don't leave food cooking unattended, especially chip and frying pans. If the phone rings while you are frying, turn it off and move the pan to a cold ring. You might only mean to be a minute but you can get distracted.

Watch out for wires, like the kettle lead, trailing across the cooker. Curtains should be tied well away from the cooker and blinds should not be too close either. Keep a fire blanket and/or fire extinguisher handy in the kitchen just in case. Small kitchen fire extinguishers can be bought at DIY stores for a reasonable price.

Try the site of the <u>British Fire Service</u> for absolutely anything to do with fires in Britain. They have a section with specific information about <u>home fire safety</u>.

Chip Pan Fire Action:

1. Leave it where it is and turn off the heat.

2. Soak a tea towel, wring out, and use to cover the pan.

3. Leave for at least 30 minutes.

4. Never pour water onto a chip pan.

5. If the fire is out of control, leave it and phone the fire brigade on 999.

General Safety

Try not to have items lying about in the kitchen where you can trip over them. Watch out for frayed carpet, vinyl and rugs that move when stepped on.

Be careful when using sharp knives. Use a chopping board so that things don't slip as you cut and if you accidentally cut yourself, wash the cut and cover with a plaster as soon as possible.

Burns are also quite common in the kitchen - so watch out for hot oven doors as you place things in the oven. Remember that rings and burners stay quite hot for a while after you switch them off.

Children & Pets

If possible, keep them out of the kitchen when you are cooking. Children, cats and dogs are all inquisitive and they will stick fingers and paws into hot liquids. Pets should not be allowed to jump up and walk on work surfaces. Apart from hygiene, they may cut or burn themselves. Keep pan handles turned back rather than overhanging where they can be pulled.