

HDB home fire safety: SCDFâ??s checklist after the 10 November Punggol fire, from sockets to chargers

Description

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HDB home fire safety is back in focus after a kitchen fire on the 15th floor of Block 105A Edgefield Plains in Punggol on 10 November 2026, which led to about 70 residents being evacuated. SCDF said the blaze was likely of electrical origin, and it has repeated its usual checklist: no overloaded sockets, no frayed cords and no devices left charging overnight. Here is that checklist, matched to the SCDFâ??s own Fire Safety at Home poster, so you can run through your flat in ten minutes.

What happened in Punggol

SCDF received the alert at about 10.10pm. Three people left the affected unit before officers arrived, two were assessed for smoke inhalation and declined hospital treatment, and the fire was put out with a water jet. SCDF said the cause was likely electrical, in the kitchen.

The wider numbers explain the reminder. SCDF recorded 2,050 fires in 2025, up 3% from 1,990 in 2024, and more than half were in residential buildings. Unattended cooking and electrical faults, including overloaded sockets, remain the two leading causes of home fires.

FIRE SAFETY AT HOME

STOP THESE PO
HAZARDS FOR A
COMMUNI

KITCHEN FIRE

- ✓ Cover cookware with lid or a wet cloth
- ✓ Turn off gas supply
- ✓ Call 995 for SCDF's assistance, if the fire goes out of control
- ✗ Avoid leaving cooking unattend
- ✗ Avoid pouring water into cookw



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CLUTTERED CORRIDOR



- ✓ Ensure a minimum clear passageway of at least **1.2m**
- ✓ Call the Town Council for the removal of bulky objects
- ✗ Avoid discarding items along corridors, lift lobbies, escape passageways and staircases

RUBBISH CHUTE FIRE



- ✗ Do not throw lighted ci
  butts into the rubbish c

**If there is a rubbish chut
pour water down the c
until there is no more sm**

WATCH OUT FOR THESE ELECTRICAL FIRE HAZARDS!



- ✓ Switch off electrical appliances when not in use
- ✗ Avoid overloading electrical outlets
- ✗ Frayed wires or damaged electrical equipment should not be used

BROUGHT TO YOU BY:

Source: Singapore Civil Defence Force

Kitchen: what to do if cookware catches fire

SCDFâ??s poster lists three things to do and two to avoid.

- Cover the cookware with a lid or a wet cloth
- Turn off the gas supply
- Call 995 if the fire goes out of control
- Do not leave cooking unattended
- Do not pour water into the cookware

SCDFâ??s emergency handbook also suggests keeping at least one fire blanket certified to BS EN 1869 at home. It is a small purchase compared with a renovated kitchen.

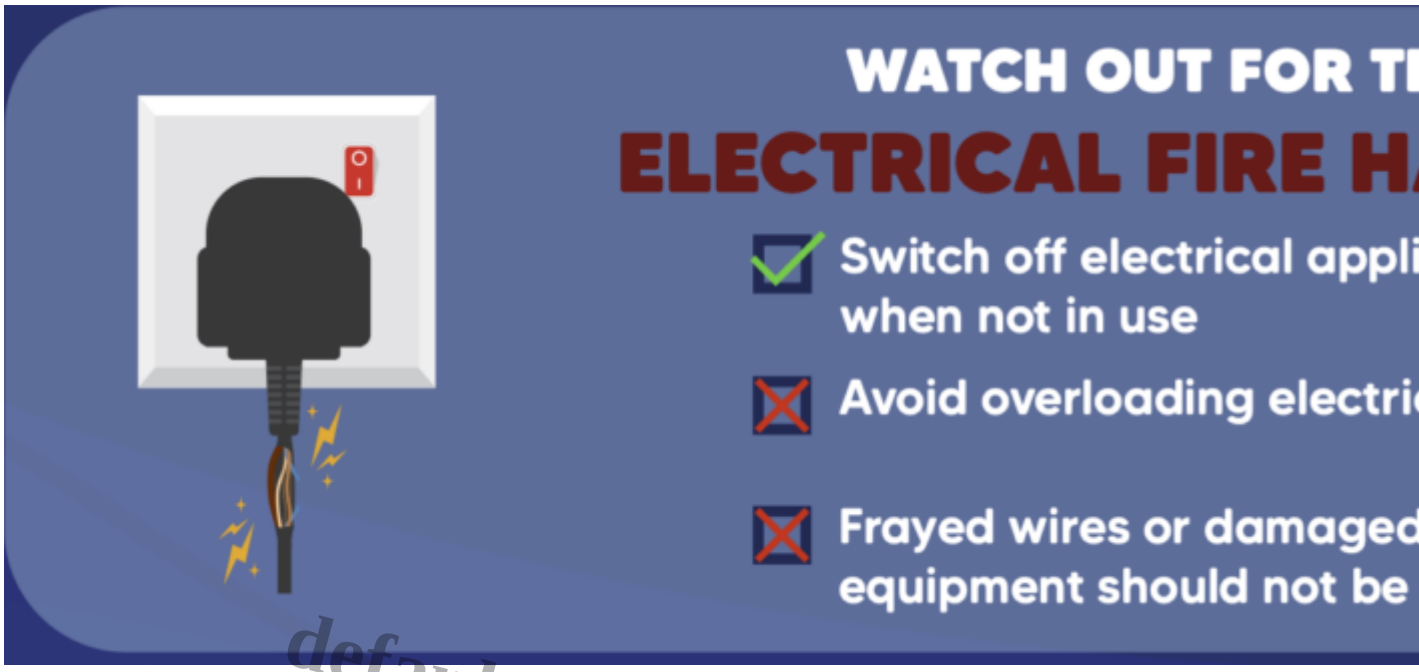
Electrical checks for your HDB flat

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The Consumer Product Safety Office and SCDF give overlapping advice. Go round each room with this list.

- Check that appliances and plugs carry the SAFETY Mark
- Switch off appliances when you are not using them
- Do not overload sockets, and consider installing additional ones if you need them
- Stop using any appliance with a frayed or cracked cord and get it replaced
- Pull the plug, not the cord, and switch the appliance off first
- Keep liquids away from appliances and sockets, and do not touch them with wet hands
- Do not leave batteries or devices charging unattended for long periods or overnight
- Use a licensed electrical worker for installation, maintenance and repair, and check their credentials

That last point matters if you are renovating. Extra points and rewiring are not DIY jobs, however small they look on a video.



Source: Singapore Civil Defence Force

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Corridors and rubbish chutes

Fire safety does not stop at your front door. The SCDF poster asks residents to keep at least 1.2m of clear passageway along corridors, and not to discard items along corridors, lift lobbies, escape passageways or staircases. If you have bulky items to dispose of, call your Town Council to arrange removal rather than leaving them outside.

For rubbish chutes, never throw lighted cigarette butts down. If there is a chute fire, SCDF says to pour water down the chute until there is no more smoke.



Source: Singapore Civil Defence Force

A 10-minute HDB home fire safety check

1. Kitchen: clear grease and paper from around the stove, and place a lid within reach
2. Sockets: count what is plugged into each extension and unplug what you do not use daily
3. Cords: run your hand along visible cords for cracks, and replace any that are damaged
4. Chargers: move phone, power bank and e-bike charging to when you are awake and at home
5. Corridor: measure the clear space outside your door against the 1.2m guide
6. Phone: save 995 so anyone in the household can find it quickly

For more on how the Home Team works with residents, see our Home Team Festival 2026 guide. If you are fixing up the flat this month, our guides to the HDB household shelter door and the PUB Water Saver Pack leak check cover two more small jobs worth doing.

Date Created
19/11/2026
Author
nuraisyah