

# Home Safety Checks

Practical skills

The checks worth a calendar reminder, and how often each is due.

*Nothing here takes more than a few minutes; all of it matters only in advance.*

1

## **Weekly — test smoke alarms**

Press the button until it sounds. A silent alarm is not a working alarm.

2

## **Monthly — check the RCD**

Press the test button on the consumer unit. It should trip immediately.

3

## **Every 6 months — clear the dryer**

Lint in a tumble dryer vent is a genuine fire cause.

4

## **Yearly — service gas appliances**

By a registered engineer. Carbon monoxide has no smell.

5

## **Every 10 years — replace alarms**

The sensors degrade. The date is printed on the back.

### **WHERE ALARMS GO**

One per floor, on the ceiling, central

CO alarm in any room with a fuel-burning appliance

Not in kitchens or bathrooms — use a heat alarm instead

Agree an escape route with everyone in the house, and keep door keys where they can be found in the dark.