

Cottage Fire Safety

The two big items you need to make sure are installed and working all year round at the cottage are the smoke detector and the carbon monoxide detector.

Make sure one is installed on every level of the cottage, and in each bedroom.

CO detectors last about five years, and smoke detectors about ten years.

Write the year they were installed inside the cover in indelible ink so that you know exactly when to replace them.

Test the batteries regularly - ensuring to keep extras on hand, and to replace them before they run out.

Because it is possible that no one will be at the cottage when the "batteries low" signal is being emitted, replace the battery with a high-quality brand at the start of every season.

In addition, you should have a fire extinguisher on every level of the cottage, and a smaller one in the kitchen.

Make sure they are recharged, or if you are buying disposables, replace them within 12 years.

Write on them in indelible ink.

Create a fire exit strategy and make sure everyone knows what it is.

Portable space heaters need to be kept at least one metre away from anything flammable.

Do not let children or pets play

with the heaters as they may overturn them and cause a fire.

Kerosene heaters should be filled only with kerosene, used in a well-ventilated area, and the refilling process should be done outside, once the heater has cooled.

Store any cleaning fluids and other flammable materials in approved containers.

Keep highly flammable fiberglass boats and canoes away from the building.

Barbecues and bonfires:

Follow local burning regulations and keep up-to-date on fire bans in the area by calling your provincial government office or your local municipality.

Keep the fire small and away from other flammable materials.

Attend the fire at all times.

Have water and firefighting tools handy.

Burn in the evening and after dark and

make sure fire is completely extinguished before sunrise.

If you choose to use wood, treat it with a fire-retardant every few years.

If you burn wood in a stove or fireplace, keep your chimney clean and use a screened chimney cap to catch sparks and embers.

Stack any firewood or lumber well away from the building.

Maintain an open area around the cottage to create a firebreak.

Remove any overhanging trees, shrubs and dry grasses from around the cottage.

Gravel, stone or brick pathways make a good firebreak. Green, actively growing grasses and ground covers and flowers are more fire-resistant.

Remove dry grass and debris from under open porches and decks and close them up.

Consider thinning trees so they do not touch or overlap.

Maintain the fuse boxes, heaters, wiring,

stoves, and other possible heat sources.

Install and maintain smoke detectors.

Fire safety tips so you don't get burned.

The dog days of summer are here, and many of us are trying to beat the heat with a trip to the cottage.

While cottages help us keep our summer cool, they do present some unique fire hazards which you might not normally consider.

Ensure the safety of your family, cottage and belongings by considering a few fire safety tips.

Around the cottage:

Choose fire-resistant material when roofing or re-siding the cottage.