



**CLOSE THE
DOOR ON
FIRE!**™



VIEWED TO BE THE BEST.®



A commitment as strong as our doors and windows

Pella makes replacing worn out or outdated doors and windows easy. The most precious things in life, however, like your friends and family, are irreplaceable. That's why Pella cares about fire safety. Because we're committed to helping improve lives. Doors and windows bring natural light, fresh air and beautiful views into your home. And they play a critical role in your safety as the primary and secondary escape exits in the event of a fire. We've prepared this vital information so you can open the discussion about fire safety with your family and friends. And **close the door on fire!**

Create a home escape plan

The first step in home fire safety is to create an escape plan. Involve household members in drawing a floor plan of each level of your home on a grid. Ask your Pella representative for a free grid template or visit pella.com/about/fire.asp to print one. First designate two exits out of each room — through doors and windows. Then mark the location of each smoke alarm on your grid with an “SA.” Next agree on a meeting place a safe distance away from your home where everyone will gather outside. This might be a familiar tree, a mailbox or other landmark away from your home. Mark your meeting place on your escape grid.

Once your grid is complete, discuss escape routes with everyone who lives in or is a guest in your home. Stress to NEVER go back into a burning building. If someone or something (such as a pet) is missing, tell the public safety dispatcher and the firefighters when they arrive.

Designate a place in your home to store or post your completed grids with other emergency information you share with your babysitter or other visitors.

Make sure the street number of your home is clearly visible from the road, so emergency responders can easily locate it. Have everyone memorize the fire department emergency phone number, and designate someone to call the fire department from a neighbor’s home or from a portable phone once you’ve safely escaped. For added convenience, preprogram local emergency phone numbers into your portable phone.



Check your doors and windows

Doors and windows are your primary and secondary fire escape exits. For safety's sake, it is critical that your doors and windows are in good working order. In a fire, you may have two minutes or less to safely escape. Don't risk your life or that of your loved ones because of a poorly functioning or inoperable door or window.

Look for exits that may need to be replaced. Check for any wear or deterioration that may keep the window or door from opening quickly.

Make sure everyone in your household knows how to safely unlock and open all doors and windows that are part of your planned escape routes.

If your patio doors or windows feature impact-resistant glass (like Pella® HurricaneShield® products), make sure everyone in your home understands that the glass cannot be easily broken. Exiting through impact-resistant units must be accomplished by first opening the unit or using another means of escape, such as a door.

Clear the way

If your windows have security bars, make sure they feature inside quick-release mechanisms that are within reach and easy to operate.

Keep stairways and exits clear and free from clutter to prevent falls and permit quick exits.

Avoid placing furniture in front of a window, which could hamper an emergency exit or could create a climbing or falling hazard for young children.

Install, test and maintain smoke alarms

Install smoke alarms on every level of your home, placing one near or inside all sleeping areas. Many newer models detect not only smoke, but heat as well for greater protection.

Make sure everyone in your household recognizes the sound of the smoke alarms.

Test smoke alarms monthly and replace the batteries at least twice a year or when the alarm "chirps" to alert you to a low battery. For the best potential protection, replace any alarms older than 10 years that are not built into your home's electrical system.

Consult your local fire department officials for tips on selecting smoke alarms.



Practice your escape plan often

After you've created a home fire escape plan, practice it at least twice a year. To begin, walk through your home with your completed fire escape plan in hand and inspect all exits and escape routes to make sure they're clear.

Make sure every door and window you've designated as a fire exit can be opened easily — that the hardware operating the window or door doesn't stick or isn't rusted shut, and verify that the window slides up and down easily and is not painted or nailed shut.

Know the drill

Hold a home fire drill at least twice a year to make sure that smoke alarms alert everyone sleeping in your home.

Allow children to master the plan and practice it before holding a drill when they are asleep. Let everyone know you will be doing this so as not to scare anyone. Some people — especially children — are not easily awakened from sleep by the sound of the smoke alarm. If someone doesn't wake up during a practice drill, assign someone to awaken and guide him or her along the escape path.

Make drills more realistic by pretending some escape paths are blocked by smoke or fire.



Make sure it works

Make sure windows in basement sleeping or play areas are large enough for adults to escape through or for rescue workers to enter. Consult your local building code for specific requirements, especially if basement spaces have been converted into living areas. Replace windows as needed to provide a safe escape route and comply with local codes to maximize the safety and enjoyment of your home.

In a fire, it may not be necessary to break the glass to escape. Breaking the glass may further endanger those exposed to broken glass and cause needless property damage. Instead, first attempt to open the unit and safely exit through the opening.

Provide additional assistance

If there are infants, older adults or household members or visitors with a disability in your home, assign someone to assist them in an escape.

For homes with more than one story, make sure everyone is able to escape from upper levels. Purchase a safety ladder bearing the Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) Mark of approval for upper-level bedrooms. Practice setting up the safety ladder from a first-floor window to reduce the risk of falling, carefully reviewing the manufacturer's instructions first to ensure you're using the ladder safely. Store escape ladders in an easily accessible location near the window you'll be using to get out. Make sure everyone knows where the ladder is stored.



Important fire safety tips

If your home is on fire:

- Check the doorknob and spaces around the door with the back of your hand. If the door is warm, try another escape route. If it's cool, open it slowly, closing it quickly if smoke pours through.
- Always choose the safest escape route — the one with the least smoke and heat.
- If you must escape through smoke, crawl low on your hands and knees (NOT your stomach), keeping your head one to two feet above the floor, where the air holds less smoke and fumes.
- Close doors behind you as you escape to slow the spread of fire and smoke.
- If your primary and secondary escape routes are blocked by fire, seal yourself in safety: close all doors between you and the fire, and if possible, seal door cracks and cover air vents with duct tape, pillows, blankets or towels. Soaking towels with water provides an even stronger barrier against smoke and fumes.

If you live in an apartment or high-rise building:

- Learn and practice your building's evacuation plan, which should be posted on every floor of your building.
- Report any locked or blocked windows or doors or security bars that don't release quickly to your building's management.
- Leave immediately if you hear a smoke alarm.
- Know the location of all building exits and fire alarms.
- Do not go back inside once you've escaped a fire.
- Use the stairs — never use elevators during a fire.
- Follow instructions announced over your building's public address system, if applicable.
- Keep a portable phone with you during a fire emergency.
- React immediately if you are trapped. Seal vents and cracks around doors with wet cloths. Call the fire department, tell them where you are and signal from a window with a flashlight or light-colored cloth.
- Be patient; evacuating large buildings can take time.
- Do not assume you can or will be rescued from the roof.

For more fire safety information, visit www.pella.com/about/fire.asp.