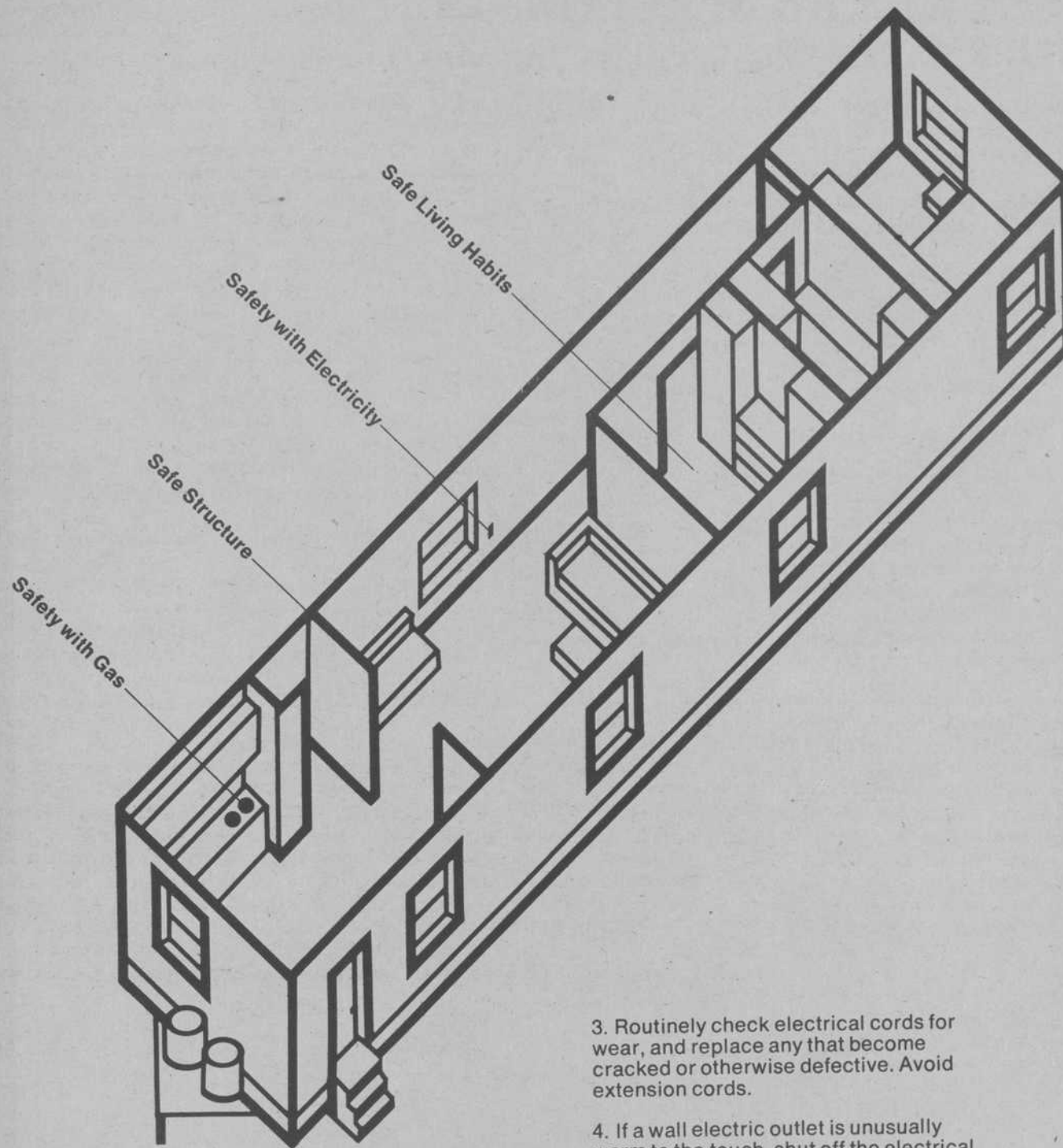


# Mobile Home Fire Check



## Safe Living Habits

1. Never smoke in bed. Dispose of all smoking materials carefully.
2. Make sure that all family members always have two unblocked ways out and know their escape routes. Practice emergency escape. Sleep with your bedroom door closed. Test a door before opening—if it is hot, use your alternate way out of the bedroom.
3. Prevent rubbish from accumulating where it could feed a fire. Do not store combustibles near the furnace, water heater, or under the mobile home. Rubbish outdoors near the mobile home can attract fire setters and spreads a fire that starts in an adjacent home or park area.
4. Never leave your children alone, even to go next door. They need you! Unattended children often start fires when alone in the kitchen or when experimenting with matches. Too often they are the tragic victims of mobile home fires.

## Safety with Electricity

1. Electrical outlets should be of the 3-wire grounding type. Outdoor receptacles should have covers to prevent rain or moisture penetration.
2. Use fuses called for by the electrical system. Never use fuses rated higher than required. They should be the tamper-resistant type (marked "Type S").

3. Routinely check electrical cords for wear, and replace any that become cracked or otherwise defective. Avoid extension cords.

4. If a wall electric outlet is unusually warm to the touch, shut off the electrical power or take out the fuse in the offending circuit. Call a qualified electrician to make repairs.

5. Use portable electric heaters safely. Use only safety tested and labeled models. Provide proper clearance from bedding, drapes, and furniture. Place away from traffic. Tell children and older persons to make sure loose clothing is kept away from the heater.

## Safety with Gas

1. Never use your gas range to heat or dry your mobile home. It is only safe for cooking. It can deplete the air of oxygen and cause carbon monoxide poisoning.

2. Liquefied petroleum gas containers must not be installed or stored even temporarily inside the living space of your mobile home. If the LP-Gas containers are in compartments on an exterior wall, be sure that the ventilation provided in the compartment in the ceiling and floor remains open.

3. Know the location of your mobile home lot gas shut-off valve if the home is supplied from a park gas system.

4. Furnaces and water heaters should be of the "sealed combustion" type so that all air for the furnace is taken from outside—not from the inside living space of the mobile home. All gas appliances other than ranges and ovens should be vented to the outside.

The principal sources of mobile home fires are the same as in any dwelling: cooking and heating equipment, electrical wiring and appliances, and smoking materials. A fire in your mobile home can threaten your life, cause painful burns, and destroy or damage your home.

Your life will be safer if you and your family recognize and correct fire hazards and practice fire prevention. If you own, rent, or are buying a mobile home, what can you do to protect yourself?

## For a Safe Structure

1. Your mobile home should be labeled to indicate that it has been built in compliance with the Standard for Mobile Homes (American National Standards Institute A119.1; NFPA No. 501B). (Mobile homes purchased with the help of FHA loans must meet the Standard.) The later the year of manufacture, the better your chance of getting more safety features.

2. The surfaces of walls and ceilings should have a flame spread rating not greater than 200—75 is better. The lower the number, the slower the fire can spread. Ask your mobile home dealer or write the manufacturer of your home to determine what the flame spread rating is of those surfaces.

3. One or more smoke detectors should be installed near the bedrooms. The ANSI-NFPA Standard for Mobile Homes now requires a minimum of one smoke detector in all homes. A detector should be safety-labeled by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as Underwriters' Laboratories (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM).

4. Among other safe features of construction, your mobile home should have two exterior doors remote from each other to provide two ways out in case of fire. Current mobile homes built to the standard have windows and doors to provide for emergency exit. Bedrooms not having an exit door should have an emergency exit window which opens easily from the inside.

5. Doors to the outside should be designed to permit emergency exit without the use of a key.

6. If your present mobile home lacks the above safety features, consider making installations or alterations to meet these minimum conditions.

If you plan installations or construction, go over the plans with the state agency having jurisdiction, local building authority, or fire department. The resulting conditions should meet the Mobile Home Standard and National Electrical Code.

If you are about to buy or rent, look for the features outlined above. For more complete guidance, you can purchase a copy of the Standard for Mobile Homes from the NFPA Publications Sales Department, 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02210.

## In Case of Fire

Get your family out fast and call the fire department at once. If you can fight the fire without jeopardizing your own safety, do so, but do not linger if you are unsuccessful in the first few moments. Remember that smoke and heat generated by a fire can travel fast through the interior. Leave yourself an escape route.



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