

When Does Clutter Become Dangerous?



Most of us live in “cluttered” houses. The thing about clutter is that it can accumulate to the point of creating a dangerous situation without a homeowner ever realizing that it is happening.

How do we know if our clutter is a safety issue?

Here are some things to look for:

- **Clutter Prevents Movement:** When the amount of clutter in a home causes you to climb over or maneuver around belongings in the course of normal living, there is a safety issue. A narrow pathway around the home with items piled high /multiple electric cords/ shoes and clothing/ magazines, books or newspapers. This kind of situation is an open invitation for a serious fall or preventing you from safely exiting during an emergency situation. It may also block Emergency Medical personnel from accessing you in a health crisis.
- **Clutter is a Fire Hazard:** Cooking is the leading cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Adults 55 or over face a higher risk of cooking fire death than other age group. Something that could catch fire was **too close** to the equipment in 9% of cooking fires and 15% of deaths. **Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop. Never use your cooktop or oven as a storage space.**

More Fire and Life Safety Tips can be found at:

www.waterfordct.org/fire-services

or follow us on Facebook

Town of Waterford, CT Fire Prevention



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