

THE PARAFFIN SAFETY RULES

KEEP PARAFFIN UP AND AWAY WHERE IT IS OUT OF SIGHT AND REACH OF YOUNG CHILDREN.

- Paraffin is dangerous. It can kill if not handled properly
- It is best to keep it locked away
- Store paraffin in its own special bottle. Avoid storing it in a cold drink bottle or milk container
- Make sure your paraffin bottle is carefully labelled so that people will know it has paraffin in it. Make your own label if you have to. Add words like "Danger" to it.
- Put the cap of the bottle on after usage.
- Use a funnel to pour paraffin. Avoid using a cup. Also put funnel away after usage.

IF A CHILD SWALLOWS PARAFFIN ACT QUICKLY

- Do not wait. Get the child to clinic or hospital immediately
- Give the child nothing to eat or drink
- Do not make the child vomit
- If paraffin is spilt on clothing, remove the clothing to avoid breathing in paraffin fumes
- If just a drop of paraffin gets into the lungs it causes serious damage to the lungs

GIVE NOTHING TO EAT OR DRINK IF A CHILD SWALLOWS PARAFFIN

- DO NOT give any medicine, traditional medicines, food, milk, or home remedies.
- Provide comfort and support
- Think of having an emergency plan available to get patient to clinic or hospital

KEEP THE AIR IN YOUR HOME CLEAN and SAFE

- Let fresh air into the room when you are using a paraffin appliance - fresh air clears the bad fumes
- Paraffin should be clear in colour, and uncontaminated with any other fuel like petrol, diesel, etc.
- It is a good investment to purchase the safest stoves, heaters and lamps as a way of preventing injury and not putting yourselves and others in danger. In this way you can combat air pollution and fires.

BIG FIRES START WITH A SMALL FLAME

- Turn appliances off when you leave home or go to sleep.

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- Make sure your appliance is working properly. Do not use it if it is broken or smoking a lot. Make sure your appliance is serviced regularly. All appliances have a life. If your appliance is not working as it should and cannot be fixed, it is time to stop using it.
- Use only paraffin in a paraffin appliance; make sure the bottle you use to store paraffin has not been used for anything else, especially petrol.
- Replace wicks when they get old and cause smoke.
- If your appliance is leaking – do not use it – it could cost you your life!
- All fires and appliances must be supervised
- Place paraffin appliances away from things that can burn
- Put paraffin appliances on a steady and even surface where they cannot be knocked or pulled over.
- Keep a bucket of dry sand ready to put out paraffin fires.

IN THE EVENT OF A FIRE

- Stay calm do not panic
- Raise the alarm and get out
- Call the emergency services. Know where to find their numbers
- If building is on fire crawl low on hands and knees
- Should your clothes catch fire, stop, drop and roll over, to put out flames
- Keep a bucket of dry sand ready to put out paraffin fires.

ACT FAST TO COOL A BURN

- Stay calm do not panic
- Put the burnt area in cool water for 20 minutes
- Do not put anything on the burn – no butter, oil, lotions or medicines as it will make burn worse
- Get the person to a hospital or clinic immediately

South African Emergency numbers

Fire & Ambulance: 10 177

From Cell Phone: 112
Police: 10 111

Poison Centres:

Tygerberg Poison Information Centre 021 931 6129
Poison Advise Line 0800 333 444