

Eight ways to reduce the risk of fires in schools



1. Always keep fire doors shut

Fire doors can keep a fire at bay for up to an hour, but only if the doors are used correctly – keep them shut.



2. Be strict on smoking

Ensure that there is a 'No Smoking' policy in the school that everyone (this includes staff, parents, visitors and students) must adhere to.



3. Store flammable substances safely

Subjects such as chemistry can include flammable substances or equipment. Make sure they are stored safely in 'flammables' cabinets and keep them locked when not in use.



4. Make sure that furniture and fixtures are fire retardant

Furniture and fixtures can help exacerbate a fire, so choosing fire retardant ones can reduce the risk of fire.



5. Carry out fire risk assessments

Every school must complete one and they must be updated regularly. They will help identify what precautions are needed and what to do if a fire does break out.



6. Dispose of waste regularly

Waste is a flammable substance and is often the cause of fires. Storing waste bins in compounds away from the building and disposing of it regularly will reduce the risk.



7. Provide fire safety training

Ensure that all staff and students know the ins and outs of fire safety and carry out regular fire drills. This increases everyone's awareness, reduces the risk and ensures the safety of everyone.



8. Test electrical equipment

Make sure that electrical equipment is PAT tested, as faulty electrical equipment can cause fires. It is also worthwhile unplugging equipment at night, where appropriate.

If you are looking to train your staff on fire safety, our courses will cover all your needs, contact us if you would like to know more at hello@virtual-college.co.uk.