

5-Minute Appliance Fire Safety Checklist

Miami homes 2026 - Based on NFPA and U.S. Fire Administration data

Run this every 90 days

1 Clean the dryer lint screen before every load

Then clean the dryer vent line at least once a year. NFPA reports failure to clean is the No. 1 cause of dryer fires.

2 Inspect the dryer venting hose

If it is white plastic or vinyl, replace it. Use rigid or semi-rigid metal duct only. Plastic hoses sag, trap lint, and are a confirmed fire risk.

3 Pull the fridge out and vacuum the condenser coils

Dust on a refrigerator compressor or coils is a slow-burn fire hazard, especially in humid Miami homes where dust binds with moisture.

4 Wipe down the inside of the microwave

Burned-on food residue can ignite. Never run a microwave empty, never put metal inside, and replace any unit with sparking or arcing immediately.

5 Never leave a cooktop unattended

Unattended cooking equipment is the leading cause of all U.S. residential fires (USFA, 2024). If you must leave the kitchen, turn the burner off.

6 Test smoke alarms in the kitchen and laundry room

Florida law requires functional smoke alarms in residential structures. Replace batteries every 6 months and replace the unit itself every 10 years.

7 Check power cords for damage and plug each appliance directly into the wall

Do not run high-draw appliances (dryers, microwaves, toaster ovens) through power strips or extension cords. South Florida summer surges shorten cord life.

If you smell something burning

Unplug the appliance if you can do so safely. Do not throw water on an electrical fire. Use a Class C or ABC fire extinguisher. If the fire is anywhere larger than a small flame, leave the home and call 911.

Emergency contacts

Fire / medical emergency: 911

Florida Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

Source: National Fire Protection Association (nfpa.org) and U.S. Fire Administration (usfa.fema.gov), 2024 statistics.

Need help? Call (786) 733-9343 for same-day Miami appliance service.

Free service call with any completed repair. 3-month warranty on parts and labor.