



City of Corpus Christi Fire Department

Home Daycare Requirements

Fire Marshal's Office

2406 Leopard St. suite 200
Corpus Christi, TX. 78408
361-826-3930

(Please note this guideline is for childcare facilities having 6-12 children located in a residence and licensed or permitted by the DFPS. These guidelines are not all inclusive of the requirements, it is intended to be a guideline for some basic home daycare inspection requirements)

1. Address

- A. Clearly posted on the front of the building in minimum 4" contrasting letters visible from the street.

2. Exits

- A. At least two exits located in distant parts of the home. An escape window can be used as an exit if children and caregivers can safely exit through to ground.
- B. You must be able to immediately open any locked door used as an exit. Key on Key are prohibited.
- C. Doors that are blocked may not be used as an exit.
- D. No exit through the kitchen, storage, or hazardous area will be permitted.

3. Emergency Lighting

- A. A battery powered source of emergency lighting must be readily accessible in case of electrical failure.

4. Windows

A. No burglar bars allowed. (Exception-Approved Systems)

Note: The following Rescue Window requirements apply to Residential Home daycare facilities located in group "R" occupancies (Residential Homes)

1. All window sills must be 44 inches or lower, measured from the floor, where children occupy a room.
2. Must have a Rescue window at least 20 inches in width and at least 24 inches in height and 5.7 Sq.Ft.

Exception: Rooms with a door directly leading to exterior.

5. Fire alarm System

A. Monitored Fire Alarm System is not needed for residential home daycares unless there are more than 5 children under the age of 2 ½ years of age, in which the occupancy becomes an I-4 and requires a manual fire alarm system unless it qualifies as an E occupancy with exit door in each room to the exterior.

6. Fire Sprinkler System/ Extinguishing Systems

A. A sprinkler system is not required for residential home daycares unless there are more than 5 children under the age of 2 ½ years of age, in which the occupancy becomes an I-4 and requires a sprinkler system unless it qualifies as an E occupancy with exit door in each room to the exterior.

B. A minimum of one Stovetop Firestop cartridge per two stove burners and installed per manufacturer recommendations. (If stove has four burners, will need minimum of two cartridges). Or may install a residential fire suppression vent hood.

7. Evacuation and Safety Plans

A. Required to be on file and maintained.

B. Complete safety and evacuation plan reviewed annually and updated as needed.

C. Complete plan available for review by the AHJ upon request.

D. Evacuation diagram must be available.

8. Emergency Evacuation Drills

- A. Monthly fire drill must be conducted.
- B. Severe weather drill must be conducted every six months.

9. Smoke/Heat Detectors

- A. Working smoke detection system is required. Individual electric hard-wired or battery operated smoke detectors located in each room used by children.
- B. Hard-wired or battery operated heat detector in kitchen.

10. Carbon Monoxide Detectors

- A. At least one Carbon Monoxide detector located on every level of the home. (May be battery operated).

11. Fire Extinguishers

- A. One 2A 10BC extinguisher for each 3,000 Sq. Ft or one 3A 40 BC
- B. One fire extinguisher is required per floor

12. Electrical Outlets

- A. Covers for electrical outlets that are accessible to children under 5 years old.
- B. Extension cords shall not be substituted for permanent wiring and must not be affixed to structures. They can be used for portable items. Extension cords must not extend through ceilings, floors, or under doors or floor coverings.

13. Water Heater

- A. Vented to the exterior
- B. In an approved enclosure
 - 1. Has adequate combustion air intake
 - 2. Is protected from rodent entry/nesting
- C. Pressure relief valve directed properly