

Air mattress fire safety information

Air mattresses are provided for those people who are at high risk of developing/treatment of pressure ulcers. These mattresses are filled with air by an electric pump. The pump monitors and adjusts the pressure to meet the needs of the patient and maintain the correct setting.

If a patient smokes whilst in bed, they are at risk of dropping the cigarette causing a burn hole in the mattress. If this punctures the mattress, air will leak out which will fuel a fire. Should the mattress become punctured, the pump works harder to try and keep the mattress inflated. This can cause the fire to increase in intensity and spread more quickly.

Smoking whilst using an air mattress is regarded as **very** high risk.

Top tips for safety:

- Do not smoke in/near an air mattress.
- Do not burn candles or use matches or lighters.
- Never use heated blankets with an air mattress.
- Keep heaters and fires a safe distance away from the mattress.
- Do not place hot items on the mattress such as hairdryers/hair straighteners.
- Use approved extension lead adaptors when required – do not overload plug sockets.
- Contact the fire service to assess for smoke alarms/fire retardant bedding to improve safety.
- Avoid wherever possible creams/emollients that contain paraffin. Where they are used, bedding should be washed more frequently.

Please follow the above recommendations to reduce the risk of a fire.

Should the above recommendations/advice given be declined, we may be required to consider downgrading or removing the equipment for safety reasons.

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