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How to Set Fire to Your Own Home

In order to properly Set Fire¹ to your home, you must start with a base of qualifications. The following are a series of (mostly) optional prerequisites that will improve your chances of setting your house ablaze:

(a) Have a long and thorough history of personal alcohol abuse and/or the willingness to get absolutely obliterated to the point of Black-Out².

(b) Have some experience with matches, a lighter, a flint, a blowtorch, rubbing two sticks together really-really fast, sparking a gas-stove, constructing bombs, lighting gasoline (or any equally-flammable liquid), and/or being able to do that thing those fire-breathers do at the circus where they spit some flammable shit out of their mouth and onto a torch and the result is a ball of flame that probably singes off their eyebrows and makes everyone say 'Wooooow' simultaneously.

(c) Be sexually abused as a child hard enough to actually be interested in arson.

(d) Blatant disregard for the safety of your wife, your own three children, and (with difficulty) even yourself.

(e) The capability to do things in the present without once thinking of the potential consequences³.

¹Syn.: Light-up, flame-on, engulf in flames, burn down, watch it burn, conflagration, The Burning Home Project, oxidizing your family through the chemical process of combustion, Burn the Mother Down.

²When you are so hammered-drunk that you cannot remember the last 15 mins.-12 hrs. and do not recognize, or remember how you may have arrived at, your surroundings.

³Which may include but are not limited to: Collateral damage to yourself, to your family, or to your neighbor's house, maybe some unexpected explosions, certainly prison-time, you probably won't be allowed to see your kids ever again, your wife will likely divorce you (or, who knows, maybe she'll let you move back in when you get out of jail as if you didn't ruin her life five years earlier), and black lung.

Only individuals with one or (preferably) more of these qualifications will be able to successfully Set Fire to his/her own home.

Tip: If you do not possess any of these prerequisites, you may want to ask yourself why you want to Set Fire to your home at all. I mean, really, only a raging-alcoholic pyromaniac who doesn't give a shit about anything but his own self-satisfaction would actually do this. So it is best to align your personality as best you can with said archetype.

Getting Started:

Step (1): Get Smashed

Here is where your experience with prerequisite (a) may become useful. Go to the grocery store, liquor store, gas station, et al. and purchase two (2) or more 750-1000 mL bottles of alcohol⁴. For the first half of the first bottle, fill a glass with ice, then liquor up to three-quarters, and your favorite mixer as a topper. For the second half of the first bottle, skip the mixer and top 'er off with the booze. For the second bottle and beyond, drink straight from the bottle's mouth. Because, hell, you're a pro. Pros don't need a mixer OR a glass.

Tip: If anyone says anything to you about your drinking, just blow him/her off with some kind of passive-aggressive quip⁵, and then continue to drink. This will ease the tension by allowing the other person to feel as though they have verbalized their concerns, while at the same time allowing you to get them off your back long enough for you to have at least one more drink.

Step (2): Smash Some Other Things

The lamp. A TV. A plate. Some expensive shit. Whatever you can get your hands on. Smash it. Use a hammer, a bat, a 2 x 4, maybe even your sloppy-drunk half-conscious body. What are these things anyway but reminders of a life you never wanted to lead? Or perhaps: Man, you are so hammered, you can knock over whatever the fuck you want! Or (probably the most popular): Why won't people pay attention to me?!

⁴Whiskey, bourbon, scotch, rye, vodka, potato vodka, gin, tequila, rum, crème de cacao, crème de menthe, absinthe, schnapps, brandy, cognac, or amaretto.

⁵*Pour example*: "I'm sorry, did I forget to offer you a drink? You like cannonballing vodka, right?" Or: "It's not morning-drinking if I simply consider the last four hours a 'nap'." Or, the classic: "It's five o'clock somewhere, ain't it?"

Step (3): Gather Up Your Supplies

Why don't you drive—on second thought, maybe walk—down to the gas station with your five-gallon gas can, fill it up (maybe huff on the fumes), buy a lighter if you do not have one already, a snack or two (salt and vinegar chips will really hit the spot), some gloves, and a pack of smokes.

Tip: On your way back home you will clearly want a cigarette, but you should really make sure that you keep the cig AWAY from the gas can. While the explosion that would result from the combination of the gas and ember would be amazing to look at, you do not want to waste all that precious fuel. You still need it for destroying your life, after all.

Step (4): Distribute the Gasoline

First, check to make sure no one else is home. Then, inside your home, open the gas can and start emptying it on whatever. A little splish-splash on the couch, maybe. A couple gurgles on the deck. Try to focus on anything that might not otherwise be flammable, and make sure that you get the things that you really want to see burst into flames wet with a bit o' gas.

Tip: After you gas everything up, walk outside while leaving a trail of gasoline behind you. This way, you will be able to light the house on fire while you are OUTSIDE of the house. Plus, you get a good vantage point to watch it burn to the ground.

Step (5): Remove the 'Important' Things from Your Home

Bring the wheel-barrel around to the back door and start filling it up. Any bottles of booze you can find, any cigarettes that might be lying around, anything in the fridge that involves cheese, your portable laptop, all of your

⁶You don't want to burn your hands!

⁷Or, you know what... don't even worry about it. I doubt there is anyone else there.

⁸The wood should supplement the fire well.

⁹Heck, you have five gallons, just start whipping the gas can around and your bound to get everything a little gassy. You should stand in the middle of the living room and just start spinning and spinning so you can fully cover the walls and furniture with that sweet, pungent stench.

¹⁰This may be the most important 'Tip' of all.

Keanu Reeves DVDs/Dogstar CDs, maybe some old photos if you are feeling sentimental. Whatever you want to keep, just toss it in the wheel-barrel so you don't lose it in all the commotion .

Step (6): Zero Hour

At this point, you should be good and liquored-up, you should have (most of) a pack of smokes, a lighter, a full belly, that oh-so-appealing smell of gasoline, and whatever random crap you decided to toss into that wheel-barrel. Walk down to the end of the gas-trail (which you should have previously laid-out), make sure you have all your stuff, and light a cigarette . At whatever point you decide , drop the lit cig onto the gas-trail.

Tip: You may want to set up a chair or something so you can have a seat, light another cig, and watch the house burn. That way you will be comfortable AND self-satisfied.

WARNING:

It is **ILLEGAL**, **STUPID**, **IRRESPONSIBLE**, and **APPALLING** to burn down your home. Do so at your own risk, and at the risk of everything have, want, or need .

If you do not check to see if others are home before setting it ablaze, there **MAY BE OTHERS AT HOME**. It is not advisable to burn your house while your children and/or wife are present.

Once the fire gets going, the police, neighbors, the fire department, and others will likely show up. **DO NOT BE ALARMED**. They are here to help, not to “be trespassin’” on your property.

Prepare to become the bane of society as people label you a convicted felon, an arsonist, and an all-around-terrible father.

¹¹There will surely be a commotion. If I failed to mention this previously then I sincerely apologize, but it's too late to turn back now.

¹²You should be drunk enough to want one whenever.

¹³Heck, smoke it down to the filter if you feel like it.

¹⁴Except, obviously, for the stuff in the wheel-barrel. So you are at least covered on Jalepeño Cheese Poppers and booze.