

## What are the risks of using emollients?

Research from Anglia Ruskin University, De Montfort University and the NFCC's Emollient Group confirmed that both paraffin and non-paraffin emollients can speed up a fire if one were to occur. This can happen when the emollient products soak into clothing, bandages and bedding and are exposed to flame or heat.

Tests confirmed that flammability increases each time the fabric is contaminated an emollient. The risk is higher when these products applied over large parts of the body.

Washing clothes, bandages or bedding, even repeatedly at any temperature does not fully remove this fire risk.

## Who is most at risk?

People who smoke and have reduced mobility are at the highest risk.

If this applies to you the **BFRS Community Safety Team** urges you, along with families and carers to be alert to the inherent fire risk and follow the updated fire safety advice.

## How to reduce the risks from emollients

- Keep away from fire, flames and cigarettes when using all types of emollients.
- **Do not smoke in bed**
- If this is not possible, you must take steps to ensure you are safe when you smoke or use naked flames. For example, by using a flameless lighter or e-cigarette.
- Do not sit too close to any open fires, gas fires or halogen heaters if you or your clothes have been in contact with emollients.
- Wash your clothing and bedding frequently at the highest temperature recommended by the fabric care instructions, to reduce the build-up of an emollient.

## Misting

Depending on a person's level of risk, it may be worth considering the purchase or provision of a misting system.

These systems release a fine water mist when a fire is detected, helping to control or extinguish flames before they spread.

## Health and Fire Chiefs Warning

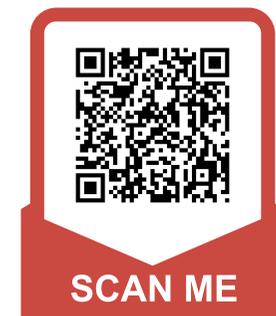
More than **50 people have died or been seriously injured** in the last decade after emollient creams dried on bedding or clothing and caught fire while they were smoking. Health and Fire Chiefs have warned.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) reports that skin creams which have dried on fabric can lead to fatal fires.

Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service has joined the MHRA, National Fire Chiefs Council, other Fire and Rescue Services and health charities to raise awareness among people who use emollients.

**If you have concerns about your emollient products, please speak with your GP, family member, carer, a professional or arrange a Home Fire Safety Visit.**

Scan the QR code to find out more:



## What are emollients and where can you find them?

Emollients are moisturising treatments applied directly to the skin to soothe and hydrate it. They cover the skin with a protective film to trap in moisture.

### They may contain:

- Paraffin
- Shea Butter
- Cocoa Butter
- Beeswax
- Lanolin
- Nut Oil
- Mineral Oils

Emollients can be found within many products that can be both prescribed and purchased over the counter.

### Products can include:

- Lotions
- Sprays
- Creams
- Ointments
- Soap substitutes
- Leave on products



## What to do if there is a fire in your home?

In the event of a fire, stay calm:

- Follow your evacuation plan and get to a safe space.

### Call 999:

- Ask for the fire and rescue service.
- Help us find you. Provide an accurate location of your home.
- Wait for firefighters to arrive in a safe location and guide them to the scene of the incident.

Do not tackle the fire by yourself.

**Get out. Stay out. Call 999.**

### Read more online.

Scan the QR Code or visit:

[bucksfire.gov.uk/emollient](https://bucksfire.gov.uk/emollient)



Buckinghamshire  
Fire & Rescue Service

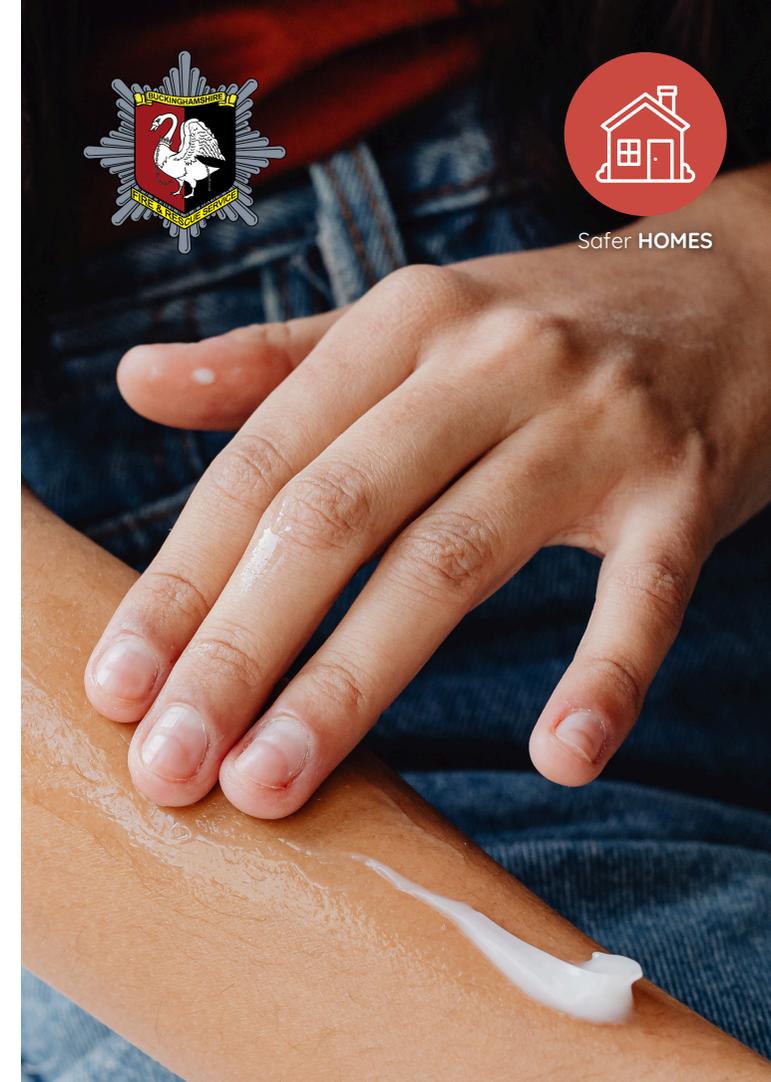
*Making a difference together*



@bucksfire | @bucksfirerescue | #BFRS



Safer HOMES



Stay safe with  
**EMOLLIENT  
CREAMS**