

## Understanding fire regulations and Crib 5 when staging a property

You might think that home staging is all about having a good eye for furnishings that make your property look its very best, and that's true - but there is a lot more to it than that. One of the many things that staging companies have to take into consideration is fire safety regulations, specifically, Crib5 and it's scary how few have even heard of it.

### SO WHAT IS CRIB5?

Crib5, or Ignition Source 5, is a fire safety standard that all furnishings and materials in certain public spaces must adhere to. This can include properties that are staged or pre-furnished for purchase or rental. Landlords and sellers have a responsibility to ensure that the property they are offering meets this fire safety standard.

To pass Crib5 regulations, furnishings and materials used in staging and interior design must be tested in a few different ways:

- 1. The smouldering cigarette test:** this test involves leaving a cigarette to burn for its entire length on a test rig constructed with the material in question. If the material doesn't catch fire, it passes test number one.
- 2. The match test:** Similarly to the cigarette test, this involves holding a lit match in place for 20 seconds. The results determine pass or fail.
- 3. The Crib5 test:** If materials pass the first two tests, they can be considered for the Crib5 test. This involves a small crib-structure made of wooden planks glued together that must be at least five tiers high. The fabric is placed on the bottom of the crib with lint. The interior is then ignited with a match. To pass this third test, the flames must extinguish within ten minutes and there must be no sign of smouldering on the material.

### WHY IS CRIB5 SO IMPORTANT?

In the event of a fire in a public building, having furnishings and materials that are Crib5 compliant can help slow the spread, giving anyone inside valuable extra time to evacuate. This legislation saves lives, and it is the responsibility of all building owners to ensure the people inside their venues are safe.

### STAYING CRIB5 COMPLIANT

When you are selecting materials or furnishings for your property, look out for the Crib5 symbol, which you'll usually find on an attached tag.

Because material must be treated before upholstering, you cannot pass Crib5 standards by treating furniture yourself (unless you are taking the fabric off and putting it back on again). That is why it is so important to make the right choices when purchasing furnishings. If an item does catch fire in your property, depending on the fabric used, you may still see flames, because the protective treatment is on the underside of the material. Once the fire burns through the outer layer of fabric, it should burn out once it hits the treatment layer.

Some fire-safety legislations also apply to things like wallpaper and even solid furniture so making the wrong choices could prove to be incredibly expensive.

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### WHY CRIB5 MATTERS WHEN CHOOSING A STAGING PARTNER

If you are looking for someone to stage or design the interior of your property for you, it is important to select someone who understands the ins and outs of Crib5 and fire safety regulations. The rules on these legislations are regularly updated and so your staging company needs to ensure their training on the subject is always up-to-date.

At Swealthy Staging, this is something we pride ourselves on, ensuring we work with brands and purchase from companies that are as strict on these requirements as we are. Fire safety shouldn't be something that keeps you up at night, but a default part of the process. Getting it right first time is so important - it keeps people safe and will save you a significant sum of money.

Ready to stage your property in a compliant way? Find out more at [swealthystaging.com](https://swealthystaging.com)



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