

YOUR GUIDE TO FIRE SAFETY



Your Housing Group has arrangements in place for managing fire risk but we also need your help. Most fires can be avoided and it's important that we all play a part in preventing them.

Fire Prevention

Safe cooking tips:

- If you need to leave the kitchen while cooking, take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk
- Make sure that saucepan handles don't stick out so they can't get knocked off the stove
- Keep tea towels, cloths and loose clothing away from the cooker and hob
- Check that you've switched the cooker off when you've finished cooking
- Keep electric leads and appliances (toasters, kettles etc.) away from water and from the hob
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order - a build-up of fat and grease can ignite
- Take care when cooking with oil as it can easily ignite. If oil starts to smoke, turn off the heat and leave it to cool
- Remember to remove pans from electric rings when you turn them off
- If a pan catches fire turn off the heat and NEVER throw water over it

Electrical Safety

Electrical appliances, plugs and cables that are old or badly wired can be dangerous.

Keep an eye out for:

- Hot plugs or sockets, scorch marks, fuses that often blow, or flickering lights- they are all signs of loose wiring or other electrical problems
- Badly wired plugs - any coloured wires sticking out could come loose and debris could also get into the plug
- Overloaded sockets - plugging too many electrical appliances into one socket can lead to overheating
- Frayed or damaged cables and leads - don't run them under carpets or rugs
- Leads which could be tripped over or which are too close to water or other sources of heat

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Appliances safety

- Never touch appliances with wet hands or get them wet
- Never leave them on at night - unless they are designed to be left on, e.g. freezers
- Never put anything in the microwave that is made of metal, or has a metallic finish
- Always keep electrical items in good working order
- Stop using appliances if they look faulty

Candles

- Make sure that you use a proper candle-holder to support your candle
- Keep candles away from curtains and other materials
- Always put the candle out when you leave the room, and make sure they are completely out before you go to bed

Fire prevention in communal areas

Corridors and stairways that form part of an escape route should be kept clear and hazard free.

The following lists provide you with information about the type of things that may and may not be stored or kept in the communal areas:

Can be stored / kept in communal area

- Real plants or flowers in ceramic pots / vases
- Artificial flowers or plants that are certified as flame retardant
- Items that are fastened to wall

Cannot be stored (and in the case of scooters, charged) / kept in a communal area

- Artificial flowers / plants that are not certified as flame retardant
- Seasonal decorations
- Refuse
- Storage of personal items under stairs, in bin chute areas, drying rooms or cupboards in communal areas including on the floor and in the vicinity of fire exits
- Mobility scooters, prams, bikes etc. that may cause an obstruction

You can also help in other ways by contacting Your Response:

- If you notice that items in the above column are being left in communal areas
- If you see any persons carrying out an unsafe act such as throwing cigarette ends away e.g. on the floor
- If you notice that refuse or old furniture has been left outside and close to the building
- If you have any concerns regarding fire safety

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Smoke Alarms

A smoke alarm is the easiest way to alert you to the danger of fire, giving you precious time to escape. They are cheap, easy to get hold of and easy to fit.

As a minimum you should have one on each floor.

Home fire safety visit

The Fire and Rescue Service will visit you at home to offer advice on how to make your home safe and where appropriate will fit a smoke alarm for free. Contact your local Fire and Rescue Service for information.

Planning a safe escape

A plan of action involving everyone who lives in your home will help you act quickly if there's a fire in your home - it could even save your life:

- Choose an escape route
- Explain the plan
- Practise the plan and remind your family about it
- Do a bedtime safety check for fire hazards

What to do if there's a fire

- Act quickly - make sure you are prepared and that everyone in your house knows exactly what to do.
- Alert everyone
- Get everyone out
- Once you're out and safe, call the emergency services **999** (calls are free)
- Don't go back in

For more advice on Fire Safety please contact Your Response on **0345 345 0272** or visit www.yourhousinggroup.co.uk/firesafety