

Fire safety in flats

Fire kills. You can prevent it.

We take fire prevention in our properties very seriously. Fire can cause serious injury and even death, as well as damage in your home and personal possessions. This leaflet aims to provide you with general information on how you can prevent fire in your home.

The numbers.

- Fire kills approximately 300 people per year in the UK
- Approximately 120 of these deaths are caused by smoking and discarded smoking materials
- Fire and Rescue Services across England attend around 528,691 incidents per year
- Over 50% of all house fires are caused by careless or unsupervised cooking
- Faulty/overloaded electrics account for over 7,000 fires per year
- Candles account for around 2,000 fires per year

Our responsibility for fire safety in communal areas.

As your landlord it is our duty to make sure that all our properties are compliant with current Fire Safety legislation. To do this, we:

- Carry out Fire Risk Assessments to all properties, including blocks of flats, to highlight any risk areas
- Hold regular communal area inspections to ensure that escape routes are free from obstructions and that no unauthorised items are being stored
- Make sure that a suitable fire detection and alarm system is fitted and regularly tested
- Employ contractors to carry out regular gas, electrical and fire safety system checks in your home
- Provide Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (PEEPs) for all customers who may struggle to evacuate their building in an emergency
- We will advise you of how to arrange a home fire safety visit from your local Fire and Rescue Service
- (From January 2023) Ensure fire doors and house entrance doors are effective fire and smoke barriers

What can you do to prevent a fire?

Communal areas.

- You must keep communal areas clear and free from all obstructions that will impact on the occupants ability to safely evacuate your building
- No items must be left in the communal area which would prevent the fire service from assessing your building
- The stairways are escape routes, and must be kept completely clear
- Fire doors must be kept closed and not propped open
- We maintain and inspect communal areas including stairwells, foyers and bin stores to ensure they remain safe
- Any items found in communal areas will be considered a Fire Hazard and will be removed and disposed of immediately

Electrics.

- Make sure electrical appliances are kept in good working order and do not use them if there are any signs of damage or loose wiring
- Unplug appliances before going to bed or when you are not using them
- When changing a fuse, make sure you follow the manufacturer's instructions, or contact a qualified electrical engineer
- Don't overload sockets, avoid the use of electrical extension leads where possible
- Do not use moveable heaters with open flames or heated elements. Oil filled radiators should not be used to dry clothes
- Prevent possessions from cluttering up your home, they may increase the risk of fire spreading or prevent a safe evacuation.

In the kitchen.

- Don't leave pans unattended when cooking
- Take care if wearing loose clothing and remove clutter from around cooking appliances
- Keep the oven, hob and cooker clean and free from grease
- Once you have finished, check that appliances are turned off
- Avoid leaving children alone in the kitchen
- Don't cook if you are under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Remember to close your kitchen door at night

Before you go to bed.

- Turn off electrical appliances
- Check your cooker is switched off
- Put candles and cigarettes out properly
- Close all doors - this will help to prevent fire and smoke from spreading
- Make sure all exit routes are clear
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them
- Make sure your keys are left on your escape route and that everyone in your home has practiced an escape plan.

Smoking.

- Never smoke in bed
- Make sure cigarettes and other smoking materials are fully out before disposing of them
- Always use an ashtray and put it on an inflammable surface at night
- Don't leave lit cigarettes unattended
- Keep matches and lighters out of the reach of children
- Where possible cigarette lighters should be filled outside

What to do in the event of a fire?

There are a number of properties where a specific 'evacuation strategy' agreed with the Local Fire Authority will operate such as a 'stay put' policy , a 'full evacuation', or 'delayed evacuation' of your building.

Please refer to the Fire Evacuation Strategy displayed in the communal areas which will advise of the policy in place at your building.

In the event of a fire in your flat, you need to act quickly and follow the specific 'evacuation strategy' agreed for your building. Make sure that you are prepared and follow these simple steps:

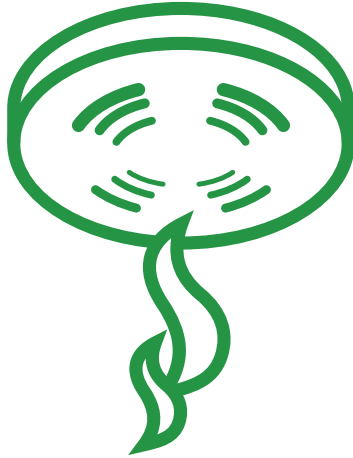
- Plan your escape and make sure everyone in your home has practiced the routine
- Keep your exit routes clear so you can escape easily
- If doors and windows can be locked, make sure keys are left out on your escape route
- Don't tackle the fire yourself
- Get out - leave your possessions behind
- Close the doors behind you
- Keep low – smoke rises and the air at a low level will be clearer
- Dial 999 to report the fire - When safe to do so, notify S4B on 0300 555 0128
- Stay out of your building until the Fire Service says it is safe to return

If you require any further information or would like to discuss further please contact your Scheme Manager (if applicable) or S4B on 0300 555 0128

If your escape route is blocked:

- Head to a room with a window
- Close the door and use blankets or bedding to stop smoke getting under the door
- Call 999 or, if you haven't got a phone, shout out of the window

Remember:
Working detectors save lives.



We recommend that you test
smoke alarms/heat detectors on
a **weekly basis.**

Register your electrical appliances to be the first to know of any important safety repairs
or recalls: registermyappliance.org.uk

Register ✓
my appliance

AMDEA™
The Association of Manufacturers
of Domestic Appliances

Do not put yourself at risk.

if you think you will need help to evacuate your home please get in touch. If you are
worried or unsure about a fire risk please contact S4B on 0300 555 0128.



s4bmanchester.co.uk