

IMPORTANT

Fire Safety Advice for Residents

If you notice a fire – call the Fire Brigade immediately Protecting you and your household

The easiest way to protect your home and family from fire is with a working smoke alarm. A smoke alarm can provide an early warning of a fire and allow you to make your escape – but only if it is working. You are more than twice as likely to die in a fire if you do not have a working smoke alarm.

- Fit smoke alarms on every level of your home.
- Test your smoke alarms regularly.
- Never disconnect or take the batteries out of your smoke alarm.

You can prevent fire from happening by taking a few simple steps

- Don't leave cooking unattended, and avoid leaving children in the kitchen alone with cooking on the hob.
- Be especially vigilant when cooking with oil. Don't overfill chip pans and NEVER throw water on a chip pan fire.
- Make sure cigarettes are put out properly, use a proper ashtray and don't smoke in bed.
- Don't overload electrical sockets.
- Turn off appliances when not in use. Don't even leave them on standby.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach and sight of children.
- Make sure candles are secured in a proper holder and away from materials that may catch fire – like curtains. Children shouldn't be left alone with lit candles.

Keep safe and plan your escape

If your home is not already provided with smoke alarms, fit one in your entrance hallway (and landing of any upper or lower floor). For even better protection, fit one in your lounge and fit a heat alarm in your kitchen. Make sure your smoke and heat alarms meet British and European standards. If you fit more than one, link them together so they all sound the alarm.

Get an electrician to fit mains-powered devices, and buy models that have a standby power supply in case of mains failure.

Your flat is in a building designed to be fire-resisting. A fire should not spread from one flat to another, so that you need not leave your home if there is a fire elsewhere in the block. That said, if in doubt, get out.

Always leave if your flat is affected by smoke or heat or if told to by the fire service **and always close your front door behind you! You must fit a self-closure device to your door if not already present to ensure this is the case.**

Current fire safety guidance from the Local Government Group in order to comply with legislation states; “flat entrance doors, and doors provided to protect common corridors, lobbies and stairways, should be fitted with suitable positive action self-closing devices. The self-closing device should be capable of closing the door in its frame from any angle and overcoming the resistance of any latch.

Rising butt hinges used to be acceptable under previous benchmark guidance, but are no longer considered suitable devices because they are unreliable in the effective closure of a door.” As your front door is your responsibility to maintain under your lease, you must fit such a self-closure so as to ensure your compliance with this guidance.

Your stairway is designed to be safe for escape throughout the course of a fire. Always use the stairway to descend to ground level if escaping.

You are encouraged to get your own fire extinguisher, learn how to use it safely, and keep it near your front door so it is next to your escape route if you need to get out rather than use it.

Do Not Leave Your Belongings Or Rubbish In Corridors, The Lift Lobby Or The Stairway.

This could affect you and your neighbours if there was a fire.

Smoking is not permitted in the common parts of this block of flats.

If you have to replace your front door at any time, you **MUST** replace it with a full 30 minute fire door including frame and door furniture.

If you are in a corridor, liftlobby or stairway and you notice a fire, leave the building immediately and, if safe to do so, alert other residents in the immediate vicinity on your way out (knock on their doors).

Do not use lifts in the event of a fire.

Ensure any gas appliances you have are tested at least once a year by a “Gas Safe” engineer, and that your flat’s mains electrics are tested every 5 years by a NICEIC registered electrician.

Do Not Put Yourself At Risk. Do Not Return To Your Flat Until It Is Safe To Do So. Remember:

- Test your smoke alarm once a week.
- Keep the exit route from your flat clear so you can escape in an emergency.
- Close internal doors at night, especially the doors to the lounge and kitchen, to prevent smoke and fire spreading.
- Plan your escape NOW. Be prepared and don’t wait until it happens.