Accent

Your Fire Safety Guide

To help you stay safe in your home, we've put together this important guide to preventing fires where you live, plus information on fires in blocks of flats and evacuation policies



the BIG WINTER WARM UP

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Every year in the UK, fires in homes cause serious harm and severe property damage. Many fires can be prevented. The advice in this guide will help you protect your home, family and neighbours.



Smoke alarms

- A fire can start anywhere in your home, and the easiest way to protect you and your family is to have working smoke alarms fitted. Smoke alarms provide an early warning of a fire and give you time to make your escape.
- Test your smoke alarms once a month.
- Never cover your alarms, disconnect them or remove the batteries.

Stop fires from happening

By taking a few simple steps, you can *stop fires* from happening in your *home.*

Smoking:

- **Ideally, smoke outside in fresh air, clear of the building, and dispose of cigarettes safely.**
- **Do not smoke in bed or anywhere you could fall asleep.**
- **Make sure cigarettes are put out properly and use a proper ashtray.**
- **Keep matches and lighters out of reach and sight of children.**
- **If you use e-cigarettes, follow the manufacturer's instructions and use the correct charger.**

Cooking:

- Never leave pans unattended when cooking.
- Never overfill chip pans. Never throw water on a chip pan fire; you should turn off the heat and close the door to the kitchen.
- Never leave children alone in the kitchen whilst cooking.

Electrics:

- Never overload electrical sockets.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when using extension cables.
- Do not leave items charging all the time.
- Turn off electrical appliances when not in use, and don't leave them on standby.
- Follow safety guidance issued on product recalls, such as tumble dryers, washing machines, fridges, freezers, and other appliances.
- Regularly remove fluff from tumble dryers.

Candles:

- Candles, tea lights and incense burners should only be placed in stable, heat resistant holders.
- Keep them clear of any materials that may catch fire such as curtains, fabrics, furniture and clothes.
- Never leave children alone with lit candles.

Heating:

- Keep portable heaters well away from anything that can catch alight, such as furniture and bedding.
- Never use damaged or defective heaters, and always follow the manufacturer's safety advice.

Housekeeping:

- Never leave rubbish, waste or any belongings in the common stairways or corridors.

E-Vehicles:

- Use approved chargers for e-bikes and e-scooters.
- Keep batteries away from doors, hallways and escape routes.
- Avoid charging batteries overnight or when you're out.

Fire doors

All *closed doors* can help hold back smoke, flames and heat from a fire, giving you time to *evacuate.*



Fire doors are special doors specifically designed to withstand fire for a certain amount of time, usually around 30 minutes. Fire doors are usually found in communal areas like corridors, staircases, or as the front door of your home.

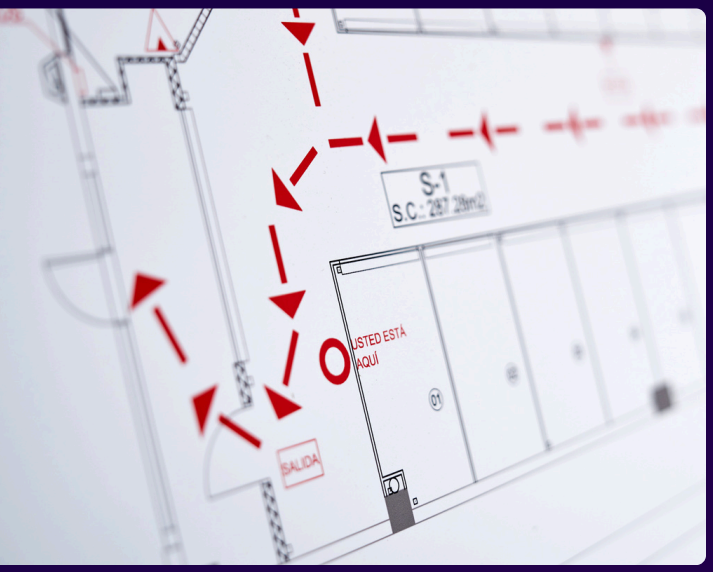
- Fire doors should be kept shut when not in use.
- Residents or their guests should not tamper with the self-closing devices.
- Residents should report any faults or damage with doors immediately to the responsible person.



Stay safe when you go to bed

- Close all doors, as this helps to prevent fire and smoke spreading.
- Switch off and unplug electrical appliances, such as TVs.
- Check that cookers and heaters are turned off.
- Make sure candles and tea lights are extinguished.
- Avoid charging mobile phones, e-cigarettes, e-bikes, etc. overnight.
- Don’t store or charge mobility scooters on the only route out of your flat, such as the hallway. Overnight, scooters should be kept in a separate room, such as the lounge or a second bedroom, if a designated storeroom has not been provided in the premises. If you’re in any doubt about the safe storage and charging of mobility scooters, please contact us for guidance.

What to do in the event of a fire in your own flat



- Make an escape plan, be prepared and don't wait until it happens. Make sure everyone knows how to get out safely and never tackle a fire yourself - leave it to the fire and rescue service.
- Always make sure doors and any escape windows can be easily opened in an emergency. Make sure any keys are available and kept where everyone can find them.
- Don't store combustible materials in hallways, landings or balconies which could obstruct your escape.
- If your smoke alarms go off or you discover a fire, follow your escape plan.
- Close the door of the room where the fire is if it is safe to do so.
- Alert everyone and leave the building as quickly as possible.
- Make sure your flat entrance door is closed behind you.
- Make your way out of the building.
- Call the fire and rescue service by dialling **999**. Give them your address and flat number and wait until they confirm this back to you.

What to do in the event of a fire in another flat or other part of the building

(where a ‘simultaneous evacuation’ policy is in force)



- If you see or hear a fire in another part of the building you should raise the alarm by using the break glass call points.
- Call the fire and rescue service giving your name, location and the address of the fire.
- Wait outside away from the building.
- If you live in one of our Independent Living Schemes and hear the communal alarm, you should immediately evacuate the building and not re-enter until the local fire and rescue service tells you it is safe to do so.

More information

We hope you feel *reassured* that you know what to do if there is ever a fire at your *home.*

Further fire safety information is available on the Government website here: www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-safety-guidance

Our own website has lots of fire safety advice, tips and information too: www.accentgroup.org/your-home/safety-in-your-home/fire-safety/

If you have any fire concerns or questions, please contact us:

- Speak to your Housing Partner
- Call us on **0345 678 0555**
- Email us on **fireandsafetyteam@accentgroup.org**