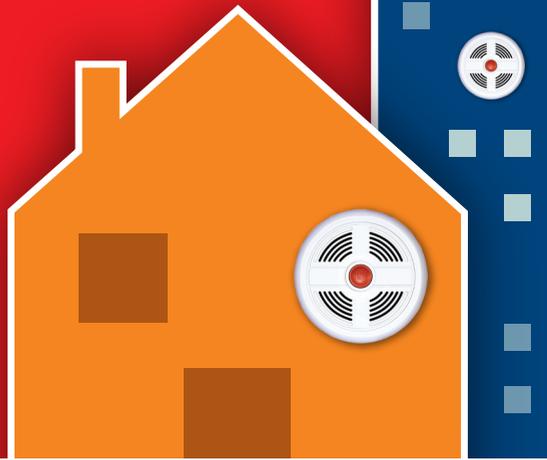


Home fire safety guide



KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE

Fit smoke alarms and test them weekly

- Fit at least one smoke alarm on every level of your home.
- Wherever possible fit interlinked alarms throughout your property. This will give everyone in your home the earliest warning of fire.

Smoking

- Never smoke in bed, in an armchair or on a sofa, if you think you might fall asleep.
- Do not leave a lit cigarette or pipe unattended.
- Use deep ashtrays so that cigarettes cannot roll out, and don't throw hot ash into the bin.
- Keep matches and lighters well out of the reach of children.

Candles

- Candles should only be placed in a stable heat resistant holder.
- Keep candles well away from curtains, furniture and clothes.

Heating and electrics

- Sit at least three feet away from heaters.
- Never put a heater near clothes or furniture.
- Don't overload electrical sockets.

TAKE EXTRA CARE IN THE KITCHEN

- Most fires start in the kitchen – for added protection install a heat alarm.
- Don't cook if you are tired or have been drinking alcohol.
- Never leave pans unattended when cooking.

If the pan does catch fire:

- Never throw water onto the pan as this can create a fireball and don't try to move it.
- If you can do so safely – turn off the heat.
- Leave the room and close the door. Shout to warn others to get out and call 999.

STAY SAFE WHEN YOU GO TO BED

- Close all doors as this helps to prevent fire spreading.
- Switch off and unplug electrical items such as TVs and avoid charging devices like mobile phones when you sleep.
- Only leave essential appliances switched on such as the fridge or freezer, turn all others off.
- Make sure candles are out before you go to bed.
- Check your cooker and heaters are turned off.

KNOW WHAT TO DO IN A FIRE

Plan your escape

Fires happen when you least expect them and you will only have a short time to take action.

- Think about and practice how you would escape if your normal way out is blocked.
- Never store anything in communal areas including balconies. Items can block your escape route and be a fire risk.
- Always keep door and window keys where everyone you live with can find them.

ESCAPING FROM FIRE IN YOUR HOME

- If your smoke alarm goes off when you are asleep, follow your escape plan, get out and call 999.
- Shout 'FIRE' to warn others and don't stop to pick up valuables.
- Check closed doors with the back of your hand. Do not open the door if it feels warm – the fire may be on the other side.
- Smoke can kill, get down as low as possible where the air will be clearer.
- If your escape is blocked by fire it may be safer to stay put until the fire brigade arrives. Close the door and use soft materials to block any gaps to stop the smoke. Go to a window, shout for help and wait to be rescued.

CARBON MONOXIDE

Carbon Monoxide (CO) is a poisonous gas that has no smell or taste and can kill quickly. If you have a solid fuel burner, open fire or a gas boiler, get them serviced regularly and fit a CO alarm.



For further fire safety advice visit our website london-fire.gov.uk

Follow this extra advice if you live in a purpose-built block of flats or maisonettes, of any height, with shared communal corridors, external walkways, staircases or entrances.

If your flat or maisonette, in a purpose-built block, is directly affected by fire or smoke and your escape route is clear:

- Get everyone out, close the door and walk as calmly as possible out of the building.
- Do not use the lift.
- Call 999, give your address including the number of your flat and state which floor the fire is on.

If there is a fire or smoke inside your flat or maisonette but your escape route is NOT clear:

- It may be safer to stay in your flat or maisonette until the fire brigade arrives. Close the door and use soft materials to block any gaps to stop the smoke. Go to a window, shout for help, call 999, give your address including the number of your flat and state which floor the fire is on.

If there is a fire in another part of the building but not inside your flat or maisonette:

- Purpose-built blocks of flats or maisonettes are built to give you some protection from fire. Walls, floors and doors will hold back flames and smoke for a minimum of 30 to 60 minutes.
- If you are in your flat, you are usually safer staying there unless heat or smoke is affecting you. Stay put and call 999. Tell the fire brigade where you are and the best way to reach you.
- If you are within the communal areas of the building, leave and call 999.