



Fire safety

Advice for residents



Know your safety procedures

Although fires are rare, please make sure you know the fire safety procedures and evacuation plans for your specific home so that you can escape as quickly and safely as possible.

Try to keep all corridors and stairways clear of things like rubbish bags, bikes, mobility scooters or sources of ignition. Smoke makes it difficult to see ahead, so these big objects could stop people escaping. Don't store any items under stairwells.

Contact your tenant support officer or housing manager if you need further information and advice.



**Emergency
exit**

If the fire alarm activates in your building:

- If there's no fire in your flat and you're there then please stay put
- If the fire is in your flat leave the building via the nearest fire exit to the main car park outside, without using the lift
- If you're in a communal area, please leave the building via the nearest fire exit to the main car park outside
- If your flat becomes affected by smoke, leave it at once and close your door behind you.
- If you move through smoke keep as low as possible because the air is cleaner.

If a fire breaks out in your flat:

Do

- alert everyone else and leave the flat, closing doors behind you
- use the stairs to exit – never be tempted to use the lift
- find a phone and call 999 when you are out of the building
- Keep as low as possible because the air is cleaner.

Don't

- open doors looking for the source of the fire
- stop to gather personal belongings
- go back into the building until you have been told it is safe to do so



Things you can do to prevent a fire



Electrical goods

- Electrical items can start fires if they're faulty or used incorrectly.
- Make sure chargers for e-cigarettes, smartphones, tablets, laptops, and other devices are used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.
- Watch out for warning signs like flickering lights, hot plugs or worn cables.

Only purchase electrical items & chargers through reputable suppliers and check they have a CE or UKCA mark.



Smoking

- Don't leave lit cigarettes unattended and make sure they're stubbed out.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Keep matches out of the reach of children.



Cooking

- Never leave cooking unattended
- Never fill a chip pan more than a third full of fat or oil, an air fryer is a safer alternative.



Portable heating

- Avoid using portable heaters and never dry clothes on them.



Safe storage

- don't store petrol, paint thinners or other highly flammable liquids in your home.



Before you go to bed

- Unplug all portable heaters.
- Make sure all cigarettes are put out – leave the ashtray outside if you're unsure.
- Close the doors to all rooms. This should slow the spread of fire and smoke if a fire does break out.

Fire doors

A fire door is specially designed to delay the spread of fire and smoke.

They minimise toxic smoke, which can cause disorientation, breathing problems and lack of visibility if there is a fire.

Fire doors are important because they provide extra time for you to escape.



Where are my fire doors?

Fire doors are present in buildings where there is common / communal space or corridors. This means that if you live in a flat that leads onto a communal corridor then you'll have some fire doors, including your front door.

A fire door should have a self-closing device fitted to the top.

Using and looking after your fire doors

Do

- keep your fire door closed unless you're walking through it
- treat your fire door with care because it's there to protect you.
- report any damage to your fire door, its frame or its close as soon as you notice it.
Repairs should be reported to BCOP on 0121 459 7670

Don't

- prop open your fire door because it can damage the door and closer.
- tamper with, hang things or tie things to the self-closing mechanisms on fire doors. These are there to ensure they close once opened and remain closed when shut. Tampering with them may cause them to malfunction.
- kick the door
- drill into the door, nail into the door or fix things to the door

