



Fire safety in your home

Escaping from fire

- Make sure everyone in your home is familiar with your building's or your family's fire escape plan and the location of any door/window keys
- Check that all windows and doors used in case of evacuation remain unobstructed and open easily

Don't rush or stop to pick up valuables

Do keep calm and get everyone out as quickly as possible

If fire strikes

- Fire can strike when you least expect it, often during the night. If your smoke alarm goes off at night, never assume that it is a false alarm
- Check closed doors with the back of your hand and if they are warm, do not open as this means there could be a fire on the other side
- Call the Fire Service - dial 999 or 112
- Smoke and fumes can also kill! If there is a lot of smoke, get down as near to the floor as possible
- If your escape is blocked by fire it may be safer to stay put until the fire brigade arrives. Gather everyone into one 'safe' room, close the door and use towels, sheets or pillows to block any gaps to stop the smoke. Wait by the open window to be rescued

Call the Fire Service - dial 999 or 112



Escaping from flats or maisonettes

If fire breaks out in your flat

- Leave the room where the fire is straight away, then close the door
- Alert everyone in your flat to leave. Close the flat entrance door behind you
- **Do not** stop to collect personal belongings
- If there is a lift - do not use it
- Leave the premises by the nearest available exit and wait outside away from the building
- Call the Fire Service - dial 999 or 112

If you see or hear of a fire in another part of the building

- The building is designed to contain a fire in the flat where it starts, therefore, remain in your flat and ensure the flat entrance door is kept shut
 - Should smoke start entering your flat from beneath the fire door, place a wet towel along the bottom edge
 - **Only leave if you are told to by the Fire Service**
 - If there is a lift - do not use it
 - If you are in any doubt it is safer to remain in your flat and await further instruction from the Fire Service

Fire doors

Fire doors are designed to automatically close behind you in the event of a fire, holding flames back and stopping the spread of fire and toxic smoke into escape routes, corridors, and other flats in the block.

- Never leave a fire door wedged/propped open
- Keep access to fire doors clear and unobstructed
- Check your front door closes safely – hold it halfway open, and check the latch engages when you let it go
- If a fire door doesn't close report, it to us immediately
- Never disconnect the door closer
- Never remove any 'smoke seals' or 'smoke brushes' that are part of the door or the door frame
- If you're fitting new carpets, make sure the door still closes smoothly
- Do not make new openings in fire doors for cat flaps or letter boxes without seeking advice from us first
- Do not drill any holes in the flat door to fit any safety chains or hooks

Communal staircases, corridors and balconies should be kept clear of all combustible material, i.e., prams, bicycles, domestic waste





Preventing a fire starting in your home

Keep safe whilst frying

The most common type of fire involves deep fat frying. Cooking oil is an ideal fuel for a fire and if left unattended whilst heating up, will catch fire in a few minutes.

- Use a thermostat controlled deep fat fryer
- Never cook with oil or fat if you have been drinking alcohol
- If your oil or fat pan catches fire do not move the pan. If it is safe to do so, turn off the heat/power then place a damp tea towel or fire blanket over the pan to smother the flames
- **Never** throw water onto the fire
- Leave the pan to cool down for 30 minutes and if you cannot control the fire yourself, leave the room, close the door and call the Fire Service on 999

Cooking accounts for around **one third** of all house fires in Britain

Be careful with candles

Candles, as with any naked flame, can be a cause of fire in the home, particularly where there are children around.

- Always place candles out of the reach of children and pets
- Never leave a candle burning unattended
- Keep candles away from hair or clothing
- Always place candles upright in suitable holders, which cannot fall over easily or transmit heat
- Always make sure that candles are put out properly, especially before going to bed

No smoke without fire

- Make sure that smoking materials are never left burning unattended
- Make sure that they are properly stubbed out in a suitable ashtray before leaving the room and disposed of safely before going to bed
- Never smoke in bed or in an armchair when feeling drowsy, under the influence of alcohol, or medication

Check your smoke alarm!

Almost two thirds of home fire deaths resulted from fires in properties without working smoke alarms.

Be sure to test the battery every month. We will service the fire alarm once a year when we carry out your annual gas safety check.



Fire safety with electricity

Use the right fuse

A fuse is a safety device designed to stop overheating in faulty appliances. If the wrong fuse is fitted and a fault develops this may result in fire.

Use adaptors safely

If an adaptor is used with too many appliances connected to it, the socket and the main wiring circuit in the house may be overloaded which in turn leads to a fire starting.

Electric blanket safety


Never leave an electric blanket switched on while you are in bed unless it is marked 'suitable for all night use'. Check the blanket, flex, and plug regularly for damage and if in doubt do not use. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.

General electrical safety

Switch off and unplug appliances which are not designed to be left on when not in use. For example, TVs, washing machines, tumble dryers etc.

Never run electrical cables under carpets

Never repair or re-join cables with insulating tape. Always replace the entire cable.



Leave all electrical repairs and alterations to qualified electricians

If you need further advice about fire safety, you can contact us by calling **01933 234450** or emailing customer.services@greatwellhomes.org.uk



www.greatwellhomes.org.uk