



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE

Home fire safety guide

- Keep your home safe
- Take extra care in the kitchen
- Stay safe when you're sleeping
- Know what to do in a fire



KEEP YOUR HOME SAFE

Fit a smoke alarm and make sure it's working

- Fit at least one smoke alarm on each level of your home. Test it weekly.

Smoking

- Never smoke in bed, or in an armchair if you think you may fall asleep.
- Do not leave a lit cigarette, pipe or candle unattended.
- Use deep ashtrays so that cigarettes cannot roll out, and don't throw hot ash into the bin.

Matches and candles

- Keep matches and lighters well out of the reach of children.

Heating and electrics

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

Communal areas, stairs and balconies

- Never store anything in communal areas including balconies. Items can block your escape route and be a fire risk.

TAKE EXTRA CARE IN THE KITCHEN

- Don't cook if you are tired or have been drinking.
- Never leave pans unattended when cooking.

If the pan does catch fire:

- Don't try to move it or throw water on to it – that will make it worse.
- Turn off the heat if you can do so safely. If in any doubt, leave the room, close the door, shout to warn others and call 999.

STAY SAFE WHEN YOU'RE SLEEPING

Before going to bed always:

- Close all the doors as this helps to prevent fire spreading.
- Switch off and unplug all electrical appliances except those that are meant to stay on, like the fridge.
- Make sure the cooker and heaters are turned off.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.

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 of how you would get out if your normal way out is blocked.
- Keep the escape routes clear of rubbish, or bulky items at all times.
- Tell everyone in the house where the door and window keys are kept.

Escaping from a fire in your home

- If your smoke alarm goes off when you are asleep, follow your escape plan and get out.
- 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, call for help, dial 999 and wait to be rescued.

Extra advice if your home is in a purpose-built block of flats or maisonettes

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 downstairs.
- Do not use the lift in the event of a fire.
- Call 999, give your address including the number of your flat and state which floor the fire is on.

If there is fire in another part of the building:

- You're usually safer staying in your own flat unless heat or smoke is affecting you.
- 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 time.
- The landlord or owner of the building is legally responsible for making sure communal areas are safe in case of fire. For example – a fire alarm or fire doors need to be maintained.
- It is important you understand the fire safety measures in place for your building, ask the owner, manager or landlord to explain all of the safety plans and what to do in the event of a fire.



For further fire safety advice visit our website [london-fire.gov.uk](https://www.london-fire.gov.uk)