



Fire Safety

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1. Fire safety in the home

This Leaflet explains what you can do to minimise the risk of fire in your home. It looks at your landlord's responsibilities of providing smoke alarms and other fire-detection equipment and what you can do if you think your home isn't safe.

How can I keep my home fire safe?

Book a free home fire safety visit

You can request a free home fire safety visit from your local Fire and Rescue Service who will advise you on home fire precautions you can take. Book a home fire safety visit by calling 0800 0731 999 or visit Fire Scotland to book online.

Smoke alarm testing

Make sure you test all alarms on a **weekly** basis and if any are not working, report to your landlord immediately on 0800 104 105. Never disconnect your alarm or move it. If you have a battery-operated smoke alarm never take out the batteries unless it is to replace them with new batteries. Tenants are responsible for replacement batteries, but the landlord is responsible for any faults with your smoke alarms.

Minimise the risks of electrical fires

There are several things you can do to help prevent electrical fires, including:

- unplugging appliances that aren't in use;
- never overloading adaptors with too many plugs;
- getting electrical appliances tested by an approved contractor;

- never leave Christmas tree lights or any other decorative lights on unattended and always switch them off before going out or going to bed;
- be aware of any dangerous electrical wiring and have this attended to immediately.

Paraffin Stoves and Bottled Gas Heaters

Because of the dangers associated with the use and storage of paraffin and bottled gas you must first seek our written permission to use such fuel types in your home.

Be careful with heaters, candles and smoking

- Keep heaters at a safe distance from flammable materials and always unplug electrical heaters when not in use;
- Never cover heaters, for example by draping washing over them;
- Never leave burning candles unattended;
- Never leave matches/lighters where children may find them;
- Never empty a hot ashtray into the bin - wet the contents first or wait until it's completely cold;
- Never smoke in bed.

Chip Pans

Chip pans are one of the most common causes of fires in the home. Please follow this advice:

- Never fill a pan more than one-third full of fat or oil;
- Never leave a pan unattended when the heat is switched on;
- If the pan does catch fire, do not move it and never throw water on it;
- Turn off the heat if it is safe to do so;
- Call the Fire and Rescue Service.

Plan a fire escape route

Plan what you would do if there were a fire in your home and always keep the escape routes clear. Make sure everyone in your home is familiar with the escape plan. If the main exit from your home locks with a key, make sure the key is always easily accessible and everyone in your household knows where it's kept. Keep staircases and means of escape free from rubbish or other items which would obstruct your escape.

Your local Fire and Rescue Service will help you produce a fire plan for your home - give them a call to find out more.

2. Do landlords have to provide smoke alarms?

Yes, and new legislation is being introduced from February 2021 after which by law, your landlord has a responsibility for providing the following fire detection equipment for your home:

- at least one smoke alarm installed in the room most frequently used;
- at least one smoke alarm in every circulation space, such as hallways and landings;
- at least one heat alarm installed in every kitchen;
- all alarms should be ceiling mounted and mains or lithium battery powered;
- all alarms should be interlinked.

Your landlord also has a general duty to keep your home fit for you to live in and to ensure that it doesn't endanger your health. This includes ensuring there are no fire hazards in your home, such as loose wiring or faulty smoke alarms. Tenants have a duty however to inform their landlord immediately of any such hazards, so that any works, for which the landlord is responsible, can then be undertaken to minimise risks to tenants.

3. Fire safety and furnishings

Any upholstered furnishings you have in your home should be fire resistant.

Upholstered furniture includes:

- sofas and armchairs;
- beds, headboards and mattresses;
- sofa beds and futons;
- nursery and children's furniture;
- loose and stretch covers for furniture;
- cushions and seat pads;
- garden furniture that's used indoors.

There should be a symbol on your furniture to state that it is fire resistant.

4. What should I do in an emergency?

If a fire breaks out in your home:

1. Get everyone out;
2. Stay out;
3. Call the Fire and Rescue Service - dial 999 free from any phone.

Other things to remember:

- If possible, close the door of the room containing the fire, and close all doors behind you as you get out;
- If you need to open a closed door, check to see whether it feels warm first - if it does, there may be fire behind it so don't open it;
- If there's a lot of smoke, stay as low to the ground as you can and cover your nose and mouth with a cloth;
- If you need to break a window to get out, cover the edges with a cloth so you don't cut yourself when you climb out and throw some bedding out to cushion your fall.

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