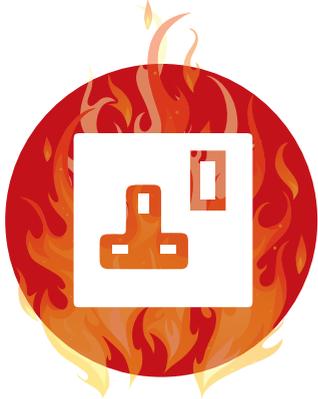


Fire safety advice for all our residents



We have produced this leaflet to help raise fire safety awareness among our residents.

Please take the time to read through this document, which is full of straightforward tips to help keep you safe. Make sure you share these tips with everyone who lives in your home.

Top tips: smoke alarms

- Test your smoke alarms every month
- If any of your smoke alarms have a one-year battery, make sure you change it every year
- Only take the battery out when you need to replace it
- Gas appliances must be checked by a Gas Safe registered gas engineer every year. We'll arrange and pay for this, but you're responsible for letting the fitter in to do the annual check

**You're
four times more
likely to die in a
fire if you don't
have a smoke
alarm that
works**



Top tips: smoking and candles

- If you are a smoker, make sure you put out your cigarettes properly
- Never smoke in bed
- Be extra careful if you have been drinking alcohol or taking medication that may make you drowsy
- Use a ceramic holder for candles and tea lights – don't place them directly on a flammable surface (like a television, a plastic box or a wooden bookcase)
- Don't place candles or tea lights near flammable materials (like curtains and nets)
- Make sure you extinguish all candles and tea lights before you go to bed

**Every six
days, someone
dies from a
fire caused by
a cigarette**



Top tips: electrics

- Avoid overloading sockets – it's advisable to keep to one plug per socket
- Some high-powered appliances, like washing machines, must have a single plug to themselves
- Don't leave or hang clothes within a metre of a heater – if they are too close, they may catch fire
- If you use a portable heater, make sure it can't be knocked over
- Inform Howard Cottage immediately if you are concerned about the electrics in your property – for example, if you notice a burn mark around a plug or cable
- Check and replace any old cables and leads, especially if they are hidden away behind furniture or under carpets and mats
- Unplug appliances when you're not using them or when you go to bed

Faulty electrics
(appliances, wiring and overloaded sockets)
cause 6,000 home fires every year

Two fires a day are started by heaters



Top tips: the kitchen

- If you're cooking on the hob, don't leave children in the kitchen alone
- Keep matches out of children's reach
- Make sure saucepan handles don't stick out – they may get knocked off the stove
- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order – if there's a build-up of fat and grease, it could catch fire
- Take care when cooking with hot oil – it sets alight easily. If the oil starts to smoke, that means it's too hot – turn off the heat and leave the oil to cool



**Around half
of home fires
are caused
by cooking
accidents**

Top tips: planning an escape route

- Plan your escape route and share it with everyone in your household – doing this could save lives
- Count how many doors you might need to go through, to escape (in a smoke-filled room, it can be hard to see and you might become confused about where you are)
- Make sure you keep the keys to your doors and windows in a place where everyone in the household knows they can find them



If you live in a flat...

If there is a fire, any items that have been left in communal corridors could block your escape. Buggies, prams, bicycles, boxes, rubbish or other items that are stored there could also create thick smoke, which could disorient you and leave you struggling to find your way out.



If you live in a flat, here are some important additional safety points:

- Know where the fire exits are in your block or building
- Keep all fire escape routes free of clutter – never store any items in a shared hallway, stairwell or landing
- Keep fire doors closed – they will help to slow down the spread of fire and will give you extra time to get out

**Please tell us
if you believe
items are
obstructing
your escape
route**

What to do if there is a fire

- Don't tackle fires yourself – leave it to the professionals
- Keep calm and act quickly, to get everyone out as soon as possible
- Don't waste time investigating what has happened or rescuing valuables
- Hot air rises, so if there's smoke, keep low where the air is clearer
- Before you open a door, make sure you feel it, to check whether or not it's warm. If it is warm, this means that there's fire on the other side, so don't open it
- Call 999 as soon as you're clear of the building (999 calls are free)



**Don't waste
time on
social media
or taking
photos**

Bedtime fire safety checklist

Before you go to bed, make sure you do the following:

- 1 Close all internal doors, to help stop a fire from spreading
- 2 Turn off and unplug electrical appliances that don't need to be left on, including:
 - Your cooker
 - Your washing machine
 - Your heaters
- 3 Put up a fireguard (if you've used a fire)
- 4 Check that all candles and cigarettes have been put out properly (don't leave any embers burning)
- 5 Think about your escape route and check that exits are clear
- 6 Check that your door and window keys are in a place where everyone can find them

**Check that
all exit routes
are clear**





Contact details

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www.howard-cottage.co.uk

A charitable housing association



business for neighbourhoods

This leaflet can be made available in large print, audio, Braille and other languages.