

Home fire safety guide for purpose-built flats and maisonettes

IF YOU HAVE A FIRE, DO YOU KNOW YOUR PLAN?

Follow this advice if you live in a purpose-built block of flats or maisonettes, of any height, with shared communal corridors, external walkways, staircases or entrances.

If there is a fire or smoke inside your flat or maisonette:

- Get everyone out, close the door and walk as calmly as possible out of the building.
- Do not use the lift.
- Call 999, give your address including the number of your flat and state which floor the fire is on.

If there is a fire or smoke inside your flat or maisonette but your escape route is NOT clear:

- It may be safer to stay in your flat or maisonette 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, 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 but not inside your flat or maisonette:

- Purpose-built blocks of flats and maisonettes are built to give you some protection from fire. Walls, floors and doors will hold back flames and smoke for a minimum of 30 to 60 minutes.
- You are usually safer staying in your own flat unless heat or smoke is affecting you. If you are in your flat, stay put and call 999. Tell London Fire Brigade where you are and the best way to reach you.
- If you are within the common parts of the building, leave and call 999.



Know what to do in a fire

KEEP YOUR PURPOSE-BUILT FLAT OR MAISONETTE SAFE

Fit a smoke alarm and test it

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

Smoking

- Never smoke in bed.
- Never smoke 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 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 it – it 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 to get out and call 999.

STAY SAFE WHEN YOU GO TO BED

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

For more information about knowing your fire plan as a tenant and legal requirements and responsibilities for landlords, visit knowtheplan.co.uk

LIFESAVER



Get one
Test it regularly

london-fire.gov.uk