

YOUR GUIDE TO Fire Safety



Our Assets

Warrington Housing Association

Your Guide to: Fire Safety

With so many things going on in the home, from cooking and gardening, to decorating, it's not surprising that most accidents happen there. With these little pointers we can make our homes a safer, more secure place.

You only have minutes to escape a fire and every second counts. Smoke alarms give you advanced warning of fire, which results in giving you more time to react. Having a working smoke alarm you are 4 times more likely to survive a fire.

Plan Your Escape

Fires can happen when you least expect them and you will only have a short time to take action.

Think about how you would get out of your home and how you would get out if the normal way is blocked.

Keep all escape routes clear of large bulky items and rubbish at all times, make sure all members of the household know where the door keys and window keys are kept.

Fire Safety in Your Home

- Fit a smoke alarm and test it regularly, fit at least one on each level of your home.
- Never smoke in bed or in an armchair if you think you may fall asleep
- Switch off electrical items that are not in use at the socket and ensure that when you are away from home for any length of time you unplug and switch off any electrical items. Items left plugged in can be a fire risk if left on standby and they also waste energy.
- Use appliances as advised and always read the instructions. If an appliance appears faulty, don't use it!

Dos!

- Report any problem with the electrical installation of your home to us straight away. Do not use items with cords which are damaged or showing the wires. Either repair or replace them.
- Use an RCD (Residual Current Device) when using electrical equipment outside i.e. Hedge trimmers, lawnmowers, power tools.
- Allow electrical inspections to take place. Regular checks are the best way to be sure that electrical installations are safe.

Don't!

- Don't do it yourself! Do not carry out DIY repairs on electrical installations or appliances
- Don't overload sockets, do not attempt to plug too many devices in to one socket, and over using extension leads.
- Do not bring mains powered portable devices into the bathroom, use any electrical appliance with wet hands
- Do not remove a plug from a wall plug socket by pulling the cord. Always pull the plug.



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Other Issues

- Always follow safety warnings provided with electrical appliances.
- Never drill holes or fix nails in walls without knowing what is behind them.
- Never put anything in the microwave that is made of metal, or has a metallic finish.
- When using a cable drum extension lead fully unwind the cable to avoid overheating.
- Use the correct wattage light bulb for all light fittings and shades.
- Don't use tape to secure cables together.
- It is a good idea to keep a torch handy in case of a power cut. Keep it somewhere you can easily locate it in the dark.
- If you have young children in your home, make sure you use safety covers on any sockets within reach.
- Sometimes a new appliance can trip a circuit breaker, check the consumer unit, if it has tripped, unplug the appliance and reset the circuit breaker and try again, if this happens again, your appliance may be faulty.



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