

# Fire Safety in Your Home



## Contact us

 by phone on **0300 373 3000**

 online at **[www.networkhomes.org.uk](http://www.networkhomes.org.uk)**

 email **[customerservice@networkhomes.org.uk](mailto:customerservice@networkhomes.org.uk)**

 in person at our offices:  
**Olympic Office Centre, 8 Fulton Road,  
Wembley, HA9 0NU  
or 36 Ware Road, Hertford, SG13 7HH**



## Fire kills

Fire kills over 350 people in the UK every year and injures more than 9,000. And electrical faults cause around 12,500 fires in our homes.

The tips in this leaflet will help to keep you and the building you live in safe.

## How to avoid a fire

Most fires in the home start accidentally and the effects can be devastating. Some simple precautions can make you a lot safer.

- ✓ Take care while you're cooking, especially when you're using hot oil.
- ✗ Never leave children alone in the kitchen when the hob or oven is on.
- ✗ Don't leave a lit cigarette or pipe unattended and always use deep ashtrays so they can't roll out.
- ✓ Keep matches, lighters and candles away from children.
- ✓ Put candles in or on a safe holder and make sure that they can't fall over.
- ✗ Don't place lit candles near fabrics or paper (including curtains), and always make sure they're blown out properly before leaving the room.
- ✓ Keep your electrical appliances safe by following the rules further on in this leaflet.

**Remember:** If there is a fire in your home, call 999 immediately and don't try to tackle the fire yourself.



# Electrical safety

Here are some steps you can take to prevent an electrical fire in your home.

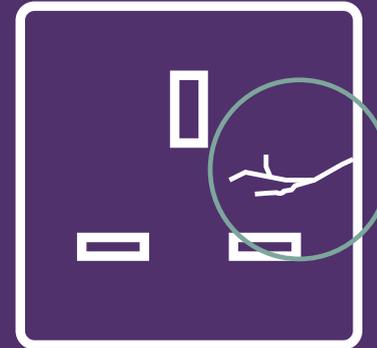
## Follow these rules

- ✓ Make sure cables from electrical appliances (including extension cables) don't run underneath carpets or rugs.
- ✗ Don't overload your wall sockets. If you need to use an adaptor use a multi-socket extension lead.
- ✓ If you need to use an extension lead, keep it uncoiled to prevent it from overheating.
- ✓ Only use bulbs that have the recommended wattage for your light fittings.
- ✓ Keep mains powered appliances away from water and don't use them in bathrooms.
- ✓ Switch off your electrical appliances when you're not using them.

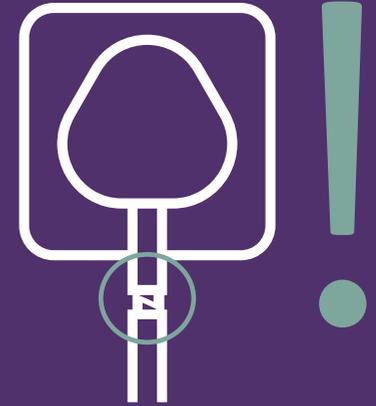


## Look out for:

Scorched or cracked plugs and wall sockets



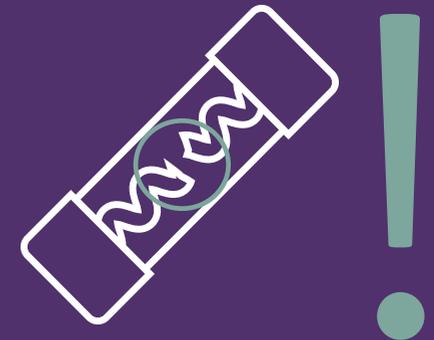
Loose, exposed or fraying cables or wires



A burning smell when appliances are switched on



Fuses that blow frequently



## What else you can do

### Make an escape plan



It's really important that you know what to do if there's a fire in your home or building. Make an escape plan and practise it regularly. If you live in a flat or maisonette, your building will have a fire strategy.

If your building has a communal area, a Fire Action Notice will be clearly displayed and will tell you what to do if there's a fire.

For more information about fire safety, or help making your escape plan, please contact us.

### Keep escape routes clear



Exit routes should be kept clear at all times. If there is a fire or any other emergency, you will need to get out quickly and safely.

**Please note:** Network Homes does not allow any items to be kept in the communal areas of buildings. We will remove any items we find in these areas immediately.

If you see anyone dumping rubbish in communal areas, please tell us immediately. You don't need to give your name.

### Fit and check smoke alarms



Working smoke alarms provide vital early warnings and give you extra time to escape if there is a fire.

Every home should have at least one working smoke alarm per floor.

**Important:** Test your smoke alarm every week.

### Close your doors at night



Closed doors will slow down the spread of smoke and fire, help to protect you from breathing in smoke and give you more time to escape. This is especially important if you live in a block of flats.

### Let us in



We carry out regular inspections to all communal areas. We need to do this by law, so please help us to keep you safe.

Fire Assessors and Inspectors will always have identification with them and a letter of authorisation if they are working with a third party. You can ask to see this at any time during their visit.

If you have any doubt, please contact us immediately and give us as much information as possible about the person/s visiting you. When you have seen their identification, please let them in.

### Request a free home fire safety check



Your local fire service provides free home fire safety checks and in many cases will install a free smoke alarm.

Fire service staff can help you to identify possible dangers and offer advice on how to keep your home safe. They can also help you to develop a tailored escape plan which could be particularly important if you are older, have mobility problems or a disability.

For more information, contact your local fire service or call us on 0300 373 3000 and ask to speak to our dedicated fire safety team.