



Fire safety advice

Helping to keep you safe
in your home

FIRE SAFETY

The safety of our residents is our highest priority, and we have several stringent measures in place to keep you safe in your home. Our fire safety partnership with Derbyshire Fire & Rescue makes sure that our fire safety procedures across all our homes meet the highest standards.

IN CASE OF FIRE

- ⚠️ **If you discover a fire – raise the alarm!**
- ⚠️ **Only press a fire alarm if there is one along your exit route.**
- ⚠️ **Dial 999 immediately if it is safe to do so.**
- ⚠️ **NEVER assume someone else has called 999.**
- ⚠️ **Leave the building by the nearest and safest route.**
- ⚠️ **If there is smoke in the area, keep as low as possible as the air is clearer closer to the ground.**
- ⚠️ **Check doors before you open them. If they are hot, there is fire on the other side so use an alternative exit.**
- ⚠️ **If you are the last one out, close the door behind you to slow the progress of the fire.**

ESCAPE PLANS



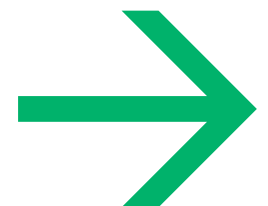
If you live in apartments, please familiarise yourself with the fire safety arrangements for your building. If you are unsure of the evacuation procedures, please ask us.



- ▶ Take a few minutes to practise your plan and make sure everybody in your household knows their way out.
- ▶ Make sure fire exits are kept clear.
- ▶ Keep fire doors closed.
- ▶ Keep keys near doors and windows so it is quicker to get out. (For security reasons, do not keep them within reach from outside.)

The best exit is usually the nearest one but have a back-up plan in case it is blocked. You could include any ground floor windows in your plan.

Smoke makes it almost impossible to see when you are trying to escape, so plan how you would escape if a fire did break out, and then practise it with your family.



SMOKE ALARMS SAVE LIVES



The easiest way to protect your home and family from fire is with a smoke alarm.

Did you know?

- ▶ We must provide you with smoke alarms. However, you are personally responsible for making sure they continue to work once we have fitted them.
- ▶ You're four times more likely to die in a fire if you don't have a smoke alarm that works. Check you have one on each floor of your home.

- ▶ 90 people die each year because the battery in their smoke alarm is flat or missing.

Please remember to test your alarm monthly and report any issues to us.

- ▶ Never disconnect or take the battery out of your alarm unless it needs replacing.

Home Safety Checks

Your local fire and rescue service may be able to visit your home and check it for risks. For further information Please contact them on their *non-emergency* number (not 999).

COOKING SAFETY



Did you know?

Almost half of all home fires are caused by cooking accidents.

We spend a lot of time in our kitchens cooking delicious meals but please remember the key safety points below:

- ▶ Never leave cooking unattended on a hob, take pans off the heat or turn them down to avoid risk.
- ▶ **If you have children, keep them away from any handles and heat.**
- ▶ Don't cook after drinking alcohol.
- ▶ Take care with loose materials which may catch fire.

- ▶ Always turn the oven off when you have finished cooking.
- ▶ Be careful when cooking with hot oil - it sets alight easily.
- ▶ Keep any electrical appliances and leads away from water.

If you are having a BBQ never leave it unattended and keep it away from children and pets. Keep a bucket of water or sand nearby in case of a fire. Ensure the BBQ is completely cool before disposing of the embers

GAS SAFETY



Your gas appliances must be checked by a Gas Safe registered installer every year.

We will do the following:

- ▶ Annual gas safety checks by a Gas Safe registered engineer.
- ▶ Ensure relevant ID is present on appointments.
- ▶ Provide a Landlord Gas Safety Record (LGSR) certificate to you following the service and hold a electronic copy on our database.

If you require a copy of your LGSR certificate please let us know.

An unsafe gas appliance can lead to gas leaks, fires, explosions or Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning.

CARBON MONOXIDE SAFETY



Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning can happen when a gas appliance has been incorrectly fitted, repaired or maintained. Look out for flu-like symptoms, sickness or fatigue.

- ▶ Headaches
- ▶ Dizziness
- ▶ Nausea
- ▶ Breathlessness
- ▶ Collapse

If you suspect CO poisoning don't delay. Get fresh air, ventilate the room, seek medical help and report it to us!

During your annual gas service we will be checking that you have a working CO alarm in every room containing a fixed combustion appliance (excluding gas cookers).

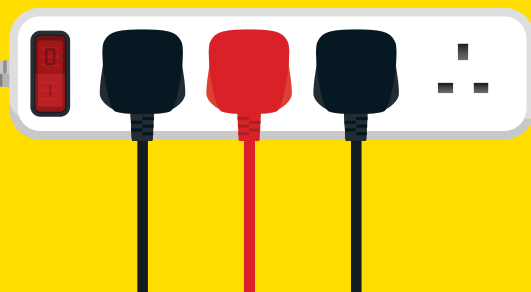
If you have any concerns please get in touch and remember to allow us access to your home for your annual gas service.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY

Appliances use different amounts of power e.g. a television may use a 3 amp plug and vacuum cleaner a 5 amp plug.

KNOW THE LIMIT!

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Unplug appliances when you're not using them or when you go to bed. Don't leave devices charging overnight.

Avoid overloading sockets and keep to one plug per socket.

Never dry clothes on heaters.

Don't leave your washing machine, tumble dryer or dishwasher running overnight or while you are out. They are a fire risk because of their high wattage, friction and motors.

Tumble dryer safety

- ▶ Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- ▶ Never use overnight or unattended.
- ▶ Clean filters after use and don't block any vents.
- ▶ Only vent warm air outside.

Be aware of any recalls for white goods

Please inform us if you are concerned about the electrics in your property and don't fix faulty electrics yourself.

CANDLES AND TEA LIGHTS

Did you know?

More than 15,000 candle fires are reported annually.



Avoid placing candles on or near materials that could burn or catch fire – like blankets and curtains.

- ▶ Keep candles out of the reach of children or pets and do not place lit candles where they can be knocked over.
- ▶ Don't burn a candle all the way down. Extinguish the flame if it comes too close to the holder or container.

- ▶ Make sure candles are always placed in a holder that is non-flammable.
- ▶ Don't place candles in direct sunlight.



Have you considered using a battery operated flameless candle instead?

SMOKING SAFELY

Did you know?

Smoking related fires are the biggest killers in accidental home fires.



REMEMBER always put out cigarettes properly after you have finished with them. Your plant pot is not an ashtray!

- ▶ Never smoke in bed.
- ▶ Use a proper ashtray.
- ▶ Take extra care if you're tired or on prescription drugs.
- ▶ It is safer to smoke outdoors.



If using e-cigarettes, always use the charger supplied with it.

If you need to buy a replacement, always choose a branded, genuine product from a supplier you can trust. There are lots of fakes out there, and it can be difficult to spot the difference.

Counterfeit electrical chargers can be deadly – many fail to meet UK safety regulations leading to fires and injury. What may seem like a bargain at the market isn't worth the risk when you consider that it could cost a family member's life.

BEDTIME CHECKLIST



You are more at risk from fire when asleep. So it's a good idea to check your home before you go to bed.

- ▶ Close internal doors to stop a fire from spreading.
- ▶ Turn off and unplug electrical appliances unless they are designed to be left on – like your freezer.
- ▶ Check your cooker is turned off.
- ▶ Don't leave the washing machine on.

- ▶ Turn heaters off and put up fireguards.
- ▶ Put candles and cigarettes out properly.
- ▶ Make sure exits are kept clear.
- ▶ Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.

If your entrance door is a fire door, please do not disconnect the self-closer as this prevents a fire from spreading. All fire doors are legally required to have a self-closer.

If you have any concerns about fire safety in your home please let us know.



Contact emh on:

T: 0300 123 6000

E: customerservices@emh.co.uk

W: www.emh.co.uk

For further advice on fire safety you can visit the websites below, call us or your local fire service on the non-emergency number (not 999).

<https://www.derbys-fire.gov.uk/safety/at-home>

<https://leics-fire.gov.uk/your-safety/at-home/>

<https://www.northantsfire.gov.uk/safety/avoiding-fires-in-the-home-rb/>

You can report any known information about deliberate fire starting anonymously to your local fire service.



Derbyshire
Fire & Rescue Service

Our partnership with Derbyshire Fire & Rescue Service enables us to enhance fire safety procedures across all our properties.