



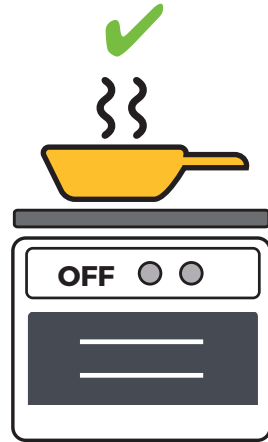
Staying safe in your home – fire safety



It's really important that we all have a fire safety plan and make sure everyone in our homes knows what to do should a fire breakout. We've pulled together some helpful reminders and tips to help keep you safe.

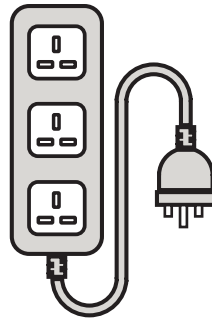
In the kitchen

- Always test your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors once a week to make sure they're working
- Keep cooking areas clear from flammable items like tea towels, oven gloves and food packaging
- Never leave pans unattended while cooking and avoid using chip pans
- Clean your oven and grill regularly – a build up of fat and grease could cause a fire
- Remember to close your kitchen door if you're going out or off to bed; if a kitchen fire breaks out this can help buy you valuable escape time



Overloading sockets

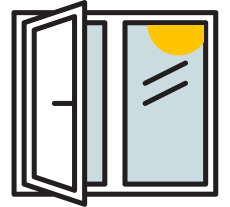
- Overloading a plug socket can also cause fires
- Check your electrical appliances are in good working order – if the wires are damaged or frayed don't use them
- It's advisable to unplug all item before you go out or go to bed
- Never overload plug sockets or plug one extension lead into another – remember appliances like washing machines should have a single plug to themselves as they're high powered



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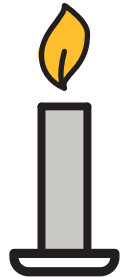
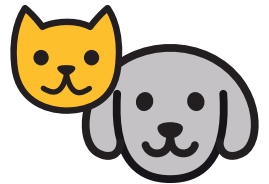
Glass ornaments and mirrors

- Think about where you are putting glass ornaments and mirrors – if they're on windowsills and where they can catch the sun they could cause fires – especially if they're next to windows and curtains.



Candles and incense burners

- We recommend not to use candles in your home or service – but if you do, never leave burning candles unattended, keep them away from flammable objects and always put them out before going to bed
- Using candle holders and making sure the candle fits firmly inside to reduce the risk of them falling
- Keep them away from draughts, curtains, furniture, and anything else that can catch fire
- Lit candles of any sort on top of televisions or other plastic surfaces could burn through.
- Keep candles out of the reach of children and pets.
- Never move a candle once it is lit. Use a low watt mains or battery lights for children rather than candles.
- Remember to blow out candles when leaving a room or going to bed.



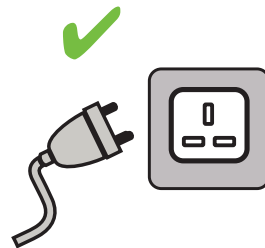
Other areas

- Never leave washing machines, tumble dryers or dishwashers running overnight
- Remember heaters should be kept well away from clothes, curtains, furniture and other flammable materials – make sure they're switched off and unplugged before you go to bed
- Never use heaters to dry clothes
- Never use a BBQ indoors or on a balcony



Smoking in your home

- Our general advice is not to smoke in your home, but if you do, always check it's fully extinguished before leaving it
- Never smoke in bed – take extra care if you smoke when tired, taking prescription drugs that make you feel drowsy, or have been drinking
- If you smoke, always use a proper ashtray that can't tip over
- Be careful if you use emollient creams – they can soak into clothing, bedding and dressings leaving a flammable residue
- Cigarettes, cigars or pipes should not be left unattended – they can easily overbalance as they burn down.



Checks to carry out before you go to bed

- Closing all doors helps to prevent fire spreading
- Switching off and unplugging electrical items such as TVs and avoid charging devices like mobile phones when you sleep are all precautions that help reduce the fire risk
- If you can, try to unplug all non-essential devices
- Make sure candles are out before you go to bed and check your cooker and heaters are turned off.

“Switching off and unplugging electrical items such as TVs and avoid charging devices like mobile phones when you sleep are all precautions that help reduce the fire risk.”

What to do if a fire breaks out in your home

Whether you live in a house, block of flats or shared accommodation, it's always helpful to have a plan or know what procedures to follow, in the event of a fire or an emergency. Make sure any children or elderly people also know what to do.



If you live in a flat, block or shared accommodation

- Be familiar with your fire procedure for your block/ flats as these may vary depending where you live
- Keep exits clear from clutter and obstructions
- Keep your door and window keys in a known and accessible place
- Think of a second escape route in case the first one is blocked
- If you have an emergency pendant, make sure you wear it and have it close by when you go to bed.

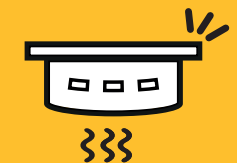


In a lone property

- Plan an escape route and make sure everyone in the home knows this in the event of an emergency
- Make sure any children or elderly people also know what to do.

Smoke and carbon monoxide detectors

Home Group will supply you with a smoke alarm and check this periodically, however it's always a good idea to check weekly they are working or if the batteries need replacing.



If there's a problem with your alarm please call our customer service centre on 0345 141 4663.

If a fire breaks out
in your home, call
999
immediately



NFCC
National Fire
Chiefs Council

Home Group's primary authority partner is Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Service.
For more safety information visit their website on www.twfire.gov.uk
For electrical safety advice visit www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk

www.homegroup.org.uk

