



Fire Safety

Information for council tenants

We want all our tenants to live safely in their homes.

This leaflet tells you about what we do to keep your home as safe as possible and what you should do in the case of a fire.

This leaflet tells you about:

- What you can do to keep your home safe
- How to prevent fires
- Making a fire escape plan
- What to do in the event of a fire
 - If you live in a house or maisonette
 - If you live in a block of flats

What you can do to keep your home safe

Smoke alarms save lives by giving you vital extra seconds to escape a fire. All of our properties should be fitted with smoke detectors, one on each level.

Most tenants are responsible for testing and maintaining their smoke alarm. It is crucial to test them and replace batteries when needed.

If your home does not have a smoke detector, if you cannot replace the battery yourself, or have concerns about your smoke detector, please call 0800 018 6050 (option 2) or visit our website www.dacorum.gov.uk/repairs.

You can also get a free Home Fire Safety Check from the Fire Service. Find out more by visiting their [website](#).

How to prevent fires

- Check your smoke alarms weekly and change the batteries as soon as they need it
- Make sure any electrical fittings aren't broken and report any broken switches, sockets, lights fittings or exposed wiring to us
- Don't use or store propane gas bottles, paraffin, petrol or other flammable liquids
- Close all internal doors when you go to sleep
- Turn off any electrical items that aren't designed to be left on for a long time
- Never leave lit cigarettes, cigars or pipes unattended
- Keep matches away from children
- Never leave cookers unattended if they're being used, especially if you're using hot oil
- Only use candles in a proper candle holder, keep them away from anything flammable and don't leave them unattended

- Don't dry or air clothes near electric heaters, cookers or open fires
- Always use the chargers provided with your phones, laptops and portable devices. Fake chargers can overheat and cause fires

Making a fire escape plan

If there is a fire in your home, it'll be much easier for you to escape if you've already thought about the best way to get out quickly.

- Work out an escape route, making sure that you always keep it clear of obstructions like toys or anything that could block your way
- Keep keys to doors and windows accessible
- Check all the family know how to escape
- Tell family or friends who may stay at your home overnight

What to do in the event of a fire

You should always follow the advice of the fire service

If you live in a house or maisonette

If a fire breaks out in your house or flat, you should:

- Raise the alarm
- Get out
- Get others out if you can safely. Don't risk your own life
- Call the fire service on 999 or 112
- Stay out - don't go back in for anything

If you live in a block of flats

The fire service advise that if you are living in a high-rise block of flats (six floors or above) you should 'stay put' unless the fire breaks out in the flat you are in. This is because all of our blocks of flats were built as self-contained homes, so unless the fire is in your home, or you are in a communal area, such as a hallway, you are safe to stay in your home unless the fire service tells you to leave.

If a fire breaks out in your flat, you should:

- Raise the alarm
- Get out
- Get others out if you can safely. Don't risk your own life
- Call the fire service on 999 or 112
- Stay out - don't go back in for anything

For more advice, or to report a repair to your electricity supply, please visit www.dacorum.gov.uk/repairs or call **0800 018 6060** and select option 2.