

Fire Safety



**OUR
HOMES**

Warrington Housing Association

If a fire breaks out in your home

- Leave the room where the fire is straight away, then close the door.
- Tell everyone in your home and get them to leave. Close the front door of your flat behind you.
- Do not stay behind to put out the fire out.
- Raise the alarm by using the nearest fire alarm call point (if available).
- Call the fire service.
- Wait outside, away from the building.

If you see or hear of a fire in another part of the building

- The evacuation plan for this building requires all residents to proceed to a safe place outside the building when the communal fire detection and alarm system sounds.
- You must also leave **IMMEDIATELY** if smoke or heat affects your home, or if you are told to do so by the fire service.
- **If you have any doubt, get out.**
- Check the communal area is safe before entering, and make sure you have your flat entrance door key with you just in case you have to return to your flat, should your escape route be impassable.

To call the fire service

- Dial 999 or 112 (This can be done on your mobile phone, once you are safely out of the building).
- When the operator answers, give your telephone number and ask for **FIRE**.
- Do not end the call until the fire service has repeated the address correctly.

Safe place

All evacuees should wait in a safe place within the **front of building** along the main road, so as not to be affected by smoke, flame possible explosion and fire fighting. **Evacuees should remain local** to be available for liaison with the fire and rescue service upon their arrival.

Safer Homes

Deliberate fires: Advice to help you reduce the threat to your home and neighbourhood.

Reduce access to your property for trespassers and opportunist arsonists:

- **Secure your boundary**, repair or block gaps in hedges, walls or fences.
- If you have gates, **close and lock** them.
- **Secure sheds, garages** and other outbuildings with padlocks or similar.
- **Fit external lighting** to alert you to intruders.

Manage your refuse - so there are no fuel sources for opportunists:

- **Clear any rubbish** from gardens, behind sheds etc.
- **Store wheelie bins securely**, away from property and out of sight.
- **Put bins out on collection day** and bring them back in asap.
- Large items such as **furniture**, old vehicles or rubble provide a fuel source. Contact your local council for advice on bulky waste removal.
- Report dumped waste and overgrown hedges to **www.fixmystreet.com**
- If you have issues with neighbours re: rubbish, bonfires etc, **contact your local council.**

Keep your home and vehicles secure:

- Park on your drive or in a secure, well-lit area and **remove valuables** from your vehicle.
- **Close windows and keep doors locked.**
- Close blinds/curtains at night to reduce visibility of your valuables.
- If you are considering CCTV it should only cover your property and to support a prosecution, it's required to be **4 mega-pixels and have resolution of minimum 1080p.**

Look out for your neighbourhood

- **Well-lit areas are less likely to be targeted.**
- Ensure you report any fly tipping, broken street lights etc to **www.fixmystreet.com**
- Report incidents confidentially to **CrimeStoppers 0800 555 111.**
- Join your local neighbourhood watch: **www.ourwatch.org.uk**

Entrance doors to your flat

Believe it or not, your front door is a secret weapon against fire in your block. This doesn't only protect you, it also protects your neighbours. Your front door prevents fire and smoke from spreading to the communal areas, cutting off escape routes.

So you should never alter your front door without first seeking advice of the fire safety implications it would have.

- It should have a self-closing device fitted to meet the current fire guidance for flats – **this should not be removed at any time.**
- Even altering the letterbox or adding a cat flap can affect the fire safety of your building and the communal escape routes.
- **Always ask permission from the property management first.**

How to check your door is fire safe

Are there gaps when the door is closed?

- If you can fit a £1 coin through any gaps or there is light visible under the door, it is likely the gap is too big.

Damage to the intumescent strips?

- Any damage or missing intumescent / smoke seals will need to be replaced.

Does your flat entrance door close properly?

- Open the door about half way, let go, and allow it to close by itself. Ensure that it closes without sticking on the floor or the frame.
- Also check that all hinges are intact.

Are there any holes or damage to the doors?

- If there are any holes or damaged areas to your door, it will need to be replaced.
- The damage will reduce the fire resistance of your door

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