

# Staying safe in your home – fire safety

home  
group

It's really important that we all think about what we can do to stay safe.

There's lots of simple things we can all do at home from in the kitchen to when we go to bed.

We've pulled together some helpful reminders and tips to help keep you safe.



## Reminders and tips to keep you safe in your home



### In the kitchen

- Try to avoid cooking when under the influence of alcohol – most fires start when people are cooking.
- It's always safer to turn pan handles inwards on cookers and away from children.
- Hot water poured onto hot fat causes fires.
- If your pan starts smoking, turn off the heat and leave it to cool.
- If you're cooking chips in a chip pan remember not to overfill it – it should always be two-thirds empty and stay in the kitchen while cooking.



### Smoke alarms

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 or if it is faulty please call Home Group customer service centre on **0345 141 4663**.



### Overloading sockets

- Overloading a plug socket can also cause fires.
- It's a good idea to regularly check wires for breakages and cuts and unplug plugs when not in use. It's also advisable to pull out plugs before you go to bed.



### 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, incense and scented oil heater safety

- Using candle holders and making sure the candle fits firmly inside reduces the risk of them falling.
- Think about where you are placing these items – away from draughts, curtains, furniture, and anything else that can catch fire is advisable.
- Lit candles of any sort on top of televisions or other plastic surfaces could burn through.
- Remember to blow out candles when leaving a room or going to bed.
- 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.



### 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.
- If you smoke when drowsy in bed or in an armchair, you risk falling asleep while your cigarette is still burning and setting furniture alight.
- Cigarettes, cigars or pipes should not be left unattended – they can easily overbalance as they burn down.
- Using a heavy ashtray that can't tip over easily and is made of a material that won't burn will reduce the risk of fire and also waiting until the contents of the ashtray are cold before emptying it into a bin outside the house.
- Take extra care when smoking around or using flammable substances – everyday items such as emollient creams can contain paraffin.



### Check 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.



## 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. Make sure your communal areas are kept clear – items can be a fire hazard, also block your escape and fire rescue access. Home Group will in certain instances clear areas, dispose of property and charge you if property is left in these areas.

### In a lone property

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.

### EVACUATION PROCEDURE



Remember in an emergency, if a life is at risk call...



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](http://www.twfire.gov.uk)

For electrical safety advice visit [www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk](http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk)

[www.homegroup.org.uk](http://www.homegroup.org.uk)

