

Emergency fire safety advice

Stay safe in your home

Follow the hints and tips inside to keep you and your family safe in your home.
It could save your life!



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Be safe in the kitchen

- Never leave children alone in the kitchen.
- Never leave cooking unattended, even for a minute or two.
- Water and electricity do not mix.
- Never put metal items in the microwave.
- Never use a chip pan, replace immediately with a thermostatically controlled deep fat fryer.
- If you have to cook with oil, keep the temperature low. If the oil starts smoking turn the temperature down.
- NEVER throw water on burning oil. Turn off the heat, get out and call 999.



Be safe with candles & cigarettes

- Stay safe with candles, tealights and cigarettes - smoking causes fires that kill at least one person a week.
- Always use a dedicated holder - NEVER use tealights solely within their own foil.
- Never leave children alone with candles or matches.
- Keep candles and cigarettes away from material that can burn, like curtains, clothing or window blinds.
- Always extinguish candles and cigarettes before you go to bed.
- Ensure candles and cigarettes are extinguished properly and never left unattended.
- Smoking in the communal areas is illegal.
- Don't leave e-cigarettes charging overnight.
- Check the e-cigarette carries CE certification.

Electrical safety

- Switch off all electrical equipment that is not required.
- Do not leave televisions or electrical devices such as ipads, games consoles etc on standby.
- Appliances such as washing machines, tumble dryer and dishwashers should have their own socket.
- Remove lint from tumble dryers after every load of clothes you dry.
- Faulty electrics (appliances, wiring and overloaded sockets) cause around 7,000 fires in the home each year.
- Avoid overloading sockets. Keep only one plug to a socket.
- Never use electrical heaters for drying clothes and always keep them a safe distance apart to avoid fires.
- Always ensure electric heaters and tumble dryers are switched off when you are out or asleep.
- If you have concerns about the electrics in your property, report them immediately.
- Never try to fix faulty electrics yourself.
- An extension lead has a limit to how much power it can take. Don't overload it as it can overheat and start a fire.
- If electrical cables look worn or have scorch marks get them replaced by a qualified electrician.
- Always fully unwind any cable reels to avoid overheating.

Plan your escape

- Agree an escape plan with your family – ensure you all understand it.
- Practice your escape; make a game of it with children so if you need to get out in an emergency, they do not panic.
- Ensure all exit routes are clear of obstacles, obstructions and trip hazards
- Communal corridors must be kept clear at all times – this allows you and your family to escape, and allows emergency crews to reach you and a fire quickly.

Smoke alarms save lives!

- You are 8 times more likely to die in a fire if you do not have working smoke detectors.
- You should never disconnect or remove the batteries from your smoke alarm.
- You should test your smoke alarm weekly to ensure that it is present, undamaged and in fully working order.



If your smoke alarm is no longer working, contact Cobalt Housing on 0330 303 2222 to request a replacement smoke alarm to be fitted.

Fire Safety Checklist

Have I:

- Made an escape plan and practiced it so me and my family can escape quickly?
- Tested my smoke alarm weekly?
- Replaced my chip pan with a thermostatic deep fat fryer?
- Made sure any exit routes are clear?
- Ensured my candles are used safely, in a dedicated holder, and not on their own or solely within the tealight foil?

At bedtime, have I:

- Closed all internal doors?
- Switched off all unnecessary electrical equipment?
- Ensured all smoking materials are fully extinguished?
- Put all candles out? Candles and tealights cause around seven fires every day!

When I leave my home, have I:

- Closed all internal doors?
- Switched off all unnecessary electrical equipment?
- Ensured all smoking materials are fully extinguished?
- Put all candles out?

To call the Fire & Rescue Service

- In an **emergency** call 999.
- When the operator answers, ask for the Fire & Rescue Service.
- When the fire operator answers give them your name, address and the location of the fire, who and what is involved.
- DO NOT end the call until the operator has confirmed the details back to you.
- Contact Cobalt at the earliest opportunity and inform us of the situation.

Call
999

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Cobalt Housing, 199 Lower House Lane, Liverpool, L11 2SF

