

Fire safety advice

You can do a great deal to improve fire safety in your home:

Smoke alarms

Fit smoke alarms so that you get early warning of a fire. Make sure it carries the current British Standards or European (CE) safety mark. Remember to change the battery according to the instructions with the smoke alarm and clean the inside at least once a year with a vacuum cleaner. Test smoke alarms every week.

You can also get a free home fire safety assessment and free 10-year battery operated smoke alarm by calling the London Fire Brigade on **0800 028 4428**. You must still check the battery in the alarm each week. When the battery stops working, you will need to get the whole alarm replaced. For more advice, contact your local fire station:

- **Euston fire station 020 8555 1200 extension 84746**
 - **Kentish Town fire station 020 8555 1200 extension 84750**
 - **West Hampstead fire station 020 8555 1200 extension 84751**
- or
- **Camden Borough fire safety team 020 8555 1200 extension 34326**

Make sure you have a fire escape plan

In the event of a fire in your home, an escape plan can mean the difference between life and death:

- Talk through your escape plan with everyone who lives in your home, especially children and teenagers, older people and lodgers

- choose the best escape route; this is normally your usual way in and out of your home
- choose a second escape route in case the first one is blocked and always aim to keep them both clear
- tell everyone where the keys to doors and windows are kept
- go through what to do in a fire
- if there's a fire you should act quickly and calmly
- alert everyone – shout
- get everyone out, using your escape route
- once you've escaped, call 999 (calls are free)
- don't go back in for anything - if there is still someone inside wait for the Fire Brigade to arrive to help them
- find somewhere safe to wait. When the Fire Brigade arrives, give as much information as possible about the fire and the building, and if anyone is still inside.

If you live in a tower block

It is normally safest to stay within your flat if there is a fire elsewhere in the building. This is because blocks are designed in compartments to prevent spread of smoke and fire, keeping you safe until the Fire Brigade arrives. There is a risk of being overcome by smoke if you leave your flat without knowing you have a safe escape route. Call 999 to tell the Fire Brigade about the fire and advise them of your location.

Keep communal areas and escape routes clear

You must not let clutter collect in passages and stairways as this is a fire risk. All communal areas should be free of combustible items. Do not store personal belongings - including items like bicycles and prams - in shared areas as this could prevent you and others getting out safely.

If you have large items to dispose of, find out how to do this at camden.gov.uk/recycling or call **020 7974 4444** (select option 4).

For more information see the Fire Brigade website at www.london-fire.gov.uk

Reduce your risk of fire at home

- Take care in the kitchen and when cooking with hot oil
- do not leave pans unattended
- never leave lit candles unattended
- ensure cigarettes are stubbed out and disposed of carefully
- never smoke in bed
- keep matches and lighters away from children
- keep clothing away from heating appliances
- take special care when you are tired
- switch off electrical appliances when you are not using them and pull out plugs, especially before you go to bed.
- Some electrical appliances, such as video recorders, fridges and freezers are designed to be left on all the time; check with the manufacturer's instructions if you are unsure
- do not dry or air clothes on or around heaters or cookers
- close doors and windows to prevent any fire from spreading, especially when you go to bed
- try not to use heaters with a naked flame, paraffin or oil heaters, or heaters with portable gas cylinders
- don't store flammable substances or spare gas cylinders
- Remember that it is illegal to burn fuels such as wood, coal and anthracite in open fires in Camden. Some stoves and fuels are exempt from this. For more information visit smokecontrolareas.co.uk or call **020 7974 5613/5623**.

- If you want to use this kind of fuel or stove, heater or boiler, you must get our permission
- make sure that open fires have a fireguard.