



Home Fire Safety

IN YOUR ABERTAY PROPERTY



As your landlord, Abertay Housing Association has to meet certain safety obligations, for which we need your help to make your home safer. Working with the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service, we've put together some hints and advice on how to make your home safe from fire.

One of the most important things you can do is get a **free home fire safety visit** from Scottish Fire & Rescue Service. We would encourage you to do this as soon as possible, by referring to the enclosed postcard and calling **0800 0731 999** to arrange. You could also visit www.firescotland.gov.uk for more information on Home Fire Safety.

In the event of a fire, don't stop or go back for your belongings. The advice is simple: Get out, stay out and call 999 to ask for the Fire Service. Please see below for some simple Do's and Don'ts :

✓ DO

- ✓ Firstly, plan an escape route and make sure everyone knows how to escape, in the unlikely event of a fire. Establish where the fire exits are and discuss and practice this plan with the other members of your household.
- ✓ Keep fire doors closed at all times, as they help to slow down the spread of fire and will give you extra time to get out.
- ✓ Check that the smoke alarm fitted in your home is in working order and report any faults to Abertay immediately. Although

Abertay carry out annual inspections of smoke detectors fitted in our properties, you should still test them every week by pressing the 'test' button.

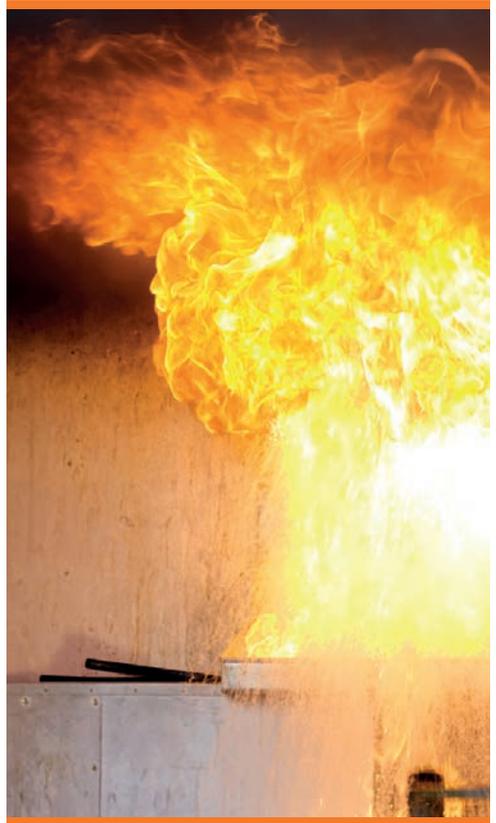
- ✓ Have your electrical fixtures checked if they are showing signs of wear by informing Abertay immediately. Don't fix faulty electrics yourself.
- ✓ Ensure all domestic appliances are protected by (fitted with) correctly rated fuses.
- ✓ Avoid overloading sockets - keep to one plug per socket.



- ✓ Make sure cigarettes are put out properly.
- ✓ Be extra careful if you have been drinking alcohol or taking medication which might make you drowsy, especially when smoking or cooking food.
- ✓ Always clean grill pans after use as the residual fat is a common cause of kitchen fires.
- ✓ Always make sure that the candles are placed in a holder or similar fire retardant surface.
- ✓ Make sure your escape routes are kept clear of obstructions and flammable materials. It could save your life.
- ✓ Ensure fire escape routes are kept clear at all times, especially in communal areas. No refuse bags, combustible materials or items of furniture should be stored in common areas such as stairways, corridors or drying rooms within a building. Keeping these areas clear it will protect escape routes and reduce the risk of deliberate fires.
- ✓ Bin rooms and access doors to the building should be kept secure to prevent intruders starting deliberate fires.

X DONT

- X Never wedge open fire doors (doors fitted with self-closers) in common areas.
- X Be careful with candles and tea lights. Avoid placing them on or near materials that could burn or catch fire – like curtains.
- X Never smoke in bed.
- X There should be no gas cylinders, flammable liquids or fuels stored or used within a high-rise building.
- X Don't use a chip pan at home as they are really dangerous.



IF A FIRE OCCURS IN YOUR FLAT

- Put into action your 'fire escape plan' by using the fire escape route down the communal stairwell and exit by the front or rear close door.
- Never stop to take anything with you or try to go back inside until a firefighter tells you it's safe to do so.
- Never open a door if it's warm to touch, there could be fire inside.
- If you can't get out of the flat and you're on a higher floor, either go to the veranda/balcony or lean out of the window for fresh air, until the Fire & Rescue Service arrives. Never jump out of a window, unless you are sure it will be safe to do so.
- If you cannot get to the veranda/balcony or a window, try to get everyone into one room (grab a mobile phone if you can). When everyone's in the room, pack clothes, cushions, pillows or towels around the door to keep smoke out.
- Open a window if you can and shout for help until someone calls 999 for the Fire & Rescue Services. Stay at the open window.



- If you're on the first floor, you might be able to drop some pillows or cushions and then lower yourself from the windowsill. Only ever try this if you've no other choice.
- If you're leaving by a window and there are two adults, one should go first to catch children that are passed down by the other. Pass them slowly and stretch full length before you let them go.



IF THE FIRE IS NOT IN YOUR FLAT

- If a smoke detector is sounding in a communal area or you smell smoke, call the Fire and Rescue Service and tell them the location of the fire if you know it.
- Stay in your flat and keep the front door closed, you will be far safer.
- Pack a towel or sheets around the bottom of the front door to stop smoke getting in. Go to an open window and wait for the arrival of the Fire and Rescue Service.
- Only leave the safety of your flat if you're affected by heat or smoke, or if you're told to leave by firefighters or the Police.

Abertay Housing are committed to providing the best possible service, however, if you feel we have failed please contact us for our complaints procedure.

Translation facilities are available on request.

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