



Wythenshawe
Community Housing Group



Your Guide to

Fire Safety and Staying Safe Low-Rise/Cottage Flats

What to do if there's a fire in your flat

If a fire breaks out in your flat:

- Leave the flat as quickly as possible.
- Tell your immediate neighbours.
- Raise the alarm – **Call 999** as soon as you can.
- **Do not** try to remove any possessions or personal items from your flat.
- Close your flat door securely.
- You should evacuate the building **using the stairs** and go to the fire assembly point outside the building.

If a fire breaks out elsewhere in the block

If you are made aware of a fire elsewhere in the block:

- If you consider it safe to do so you can stay put within your flat.
- Keep the door closed securely.
- Close all internal doors and remain in one room preferably with a window.
- Gather some towels and sheets for use in case smoke enters around your front door.
- Place a damp towel or sheet around the bottom of the door to prevent smoke entering.

- If you think it is not safe to stay put, i.e. if your flat is threatened by fire or smoke or you are instructed to leave your flat by the fire service follow your escape route or the fire officer's instructions to safety but **NEVER** use the lift.
- Do not go back to your flat until you have been told it is safe to do so.

What if I can't manage stairs?

If the fire is in your flat and you are unable to use the stairs, you should alert your neighbours and stay in another flat (remote from your flat) with the door closed until the Fire Service advise you otherwise.

If you are unable to do this then make your way to the nearest staircase and await advice from the Fire Service. If you have a mobile phone, inform them of your location.

Inform the Fire Service or WCHG where you are if possible. You could do this via the concierge service if you have it, or by calling us on 0300 111 0000.

Planning

- Take time now to think about how you would evacuate and where the doors to the stairways are.
- It is important that all escape routes are kept clear of obstructions at all times.
- Think about the corridors you use and what they would be like if they were filled with smoke.
- There should be no chairs, plant pots, mats or similar items in the corridor that would be a trip hazard.
- If you know of a reason why you would not be able to use the stairs (e.g. a mobility problem or visual impairment) during an evacuation please let us know.



Keeping you safe

This building has been designed with safety in mind and the walls, doors and floors are specially designed to resist fire and stop the spread of smoke. To do this, fire doors need to be kept closed when they are not in use.

Outside the building, roads and other areas are designed so that emergency vehicles can get as near as possible.

NEVER block these.

Communal areas, landings, lobbies and storage areas

All communal areas, landings, lobbies and storage areas **MUST** be free of any items and obstructions. This includes door mats, furniture, rubbish bins, books, pushchairs, bicycles etc.

NEVER store combustible items in any communal rooms within your building.

You can help by making sure that you:

- Keep an eye on your cooking at all times particularly with high risk activities such as using a chip pan.
- We advise against the use of chip pan, and WCHG will provide an electric deep fat fryer in exchange for a chip pan – free of charge.
- Never leave a lit cigarette unattended and ensure that they are fully extinguished.
- Always making sure that you are available for the annual check of heating and smoke alarms.



Never prop or wedge fire communal doors open. It is also a good idea to close your internal doors when you go to bed.

Scooters

- Let us know if you have a scooter.
- All Scooters should be stored in the designated area.
- The scooters should be charged only between 8am and 8pm and never overnight.
- Scooters should have an annual service and adequate insurance.

Electrical appliances

- Always take care when using electrical items in your home such as hair straighteners, mobile heaters and electric blankets.
- Ensure all electric and white goods such as fridge-freezers, washing machines and dryers are safe for usage.
- Extension leads should be fully unwound and plugged directly into a socket. Do not overload sockets as this can be dangerous.

Alterations to your flat

Permission from WCHG is needed for any alterations to your flat, this includes new doors and door furniture. Your flat is designed with fire protection features. These should not be tampered with or removed. If you would like to carry out any works/alterations in your flat please contact our Property Services Team via Customer Services on the numbers below.

I confirm I understand the details of the Fire Safety Leaflet and agree to comply with all elements of this.

Name _____

Address _____

Signature _____



Wythenshawe Community
Housing Group
Wythenshawe House
8 Poundswick Lane
Wythenshawe
Manchester M22 9TA

e: customerenquiries@wchg.org.uk
t: 0800 633 5500
t: 0300 111 0000
www.wchg.org.uk