

Fire safety in your home



Fire strategy

Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council (NBBC) has a **STAY PUT** policy within its blocks of flats

This means that in the event of a fire that is not in your home, you should **STAY PUT** until the fire service tells you otherwise.

NBBC blocks of flats are purpose-built buildings designed to minimise the spread of fire. By providing up to sixty minutes of fire resistance, they give the fire service ample time to deal with the fire or evacuate you and your family from the building.

Keep communal areas clear

This **STAY PUT** policy is supported by the need to keep all communal areas FIRE STERILE which means free from any obstructions that could compromise the fire safety of the building, prevent fire fighters from doing their work, or seriously impede your evacuation.

YOU MUST

- Keep common areas free of obstacles such as push chairs, bikes and e-scooters
- Dispose of rubbish responsibly using the bins provided or by removing it from the building
- **ALWAYS** keep fire doors shut – including entrance doors to flats

YOU MUST NOT

- Smoke in common areas such as walkways, stairwells, bin stores and lifts
- Wedge fire doors open – even for a moment

NBBC has a legal duty to ensure that escape routes are kept clear and safe

NBBC carries out regular block inspections to ensure common areas are being kept free of obstructions and will issue seven day notices of removal to anyone leaving property in these areas. Any items deemed as fire hazards will be removed immediately – the cost of which will be passed on to all tenants in the building if the owner of the items cannot be identified.

General fire safety for tenants

Balconies

If you have a balcony, you must not store any combustible items there as this increases the risk of fire. Whilst private balconies are not communal areas, items stored within these areas can have a negative impact on neighbouring properties.

Private balconies, including ground-level enclosures **MUST NOT** be used by tenants to store the following items which may create a serious fire hazard:

- Gas bottles or oil-based paint tins
- Plastic or wooden furniture and plant pots
- Electrical appliances – including washing machines and tumble dryers etc
- Any other flammable items

You **MUST NEVER USE** or store barbecues or patio heaters on your balcony or erect any kind of privacy screening.

Door mats

Door mats are permitted in communal areas, but these should be rubber-backed to prevent any slip or trip hazard in the event of an evacuation.

Storage of personal items

Personal items **MUST NOT** be stored in any electrical cupboards or riser cupboards as doing so creates a potential fire hazard. Storage cupboards must be kept locked to reduce the chance of fire starting, and to limit its spread if it occurs.

Fire doors

Fire doors are a vitally important, integral part of the fire safety design of your building.

Fire doors and their frames save lives by delaying the spread of fire through a building, keeping you and your neighbours safe until the fire service arrives – but they can only protect you if you protect them:

ALWAYS keep fire doors shut.

NEVER prop fire doors open – not even for a minute.

DO NOT tamper with, or disconnect the automatic door closer.

DO NOT fix anything to fire doors or their frames. Screws, nails or even self-adhesive items will **SEVERELY DAMAGE** their fire resistance.

DO NOT hang anything on fire doors or their frames and do not paint or decorate them.

ALWAYS report any issues with, or damage to fire doors or their frames **IMMEDIATELY** by calling our dedicated repairs helpline on **024 7637 6344**



What to do in the event of fire

If fire breaks out in your flat

- **Leave the room straight away along with anyone else and close the door**
- **Tell everyone in your flat there is a fire and get them to leave**
- **DO NOT** stay behind to try and put the fire out
- **Stay outside away from the building**

Call the Fire Service by dialling 999

If you see or hear of fire in another part of the building

- **STAY PUT** in your flat with the doors and windows shut until the **Fire Service** tells you otherwise
- If smoke or heat begins to affect your home **GET EVERYONE OUT** of the building immediately following the emergency exit signs
- **Stay outside away from the building**

Call the Fire Service by dialling 999

How to call the Fire Service

- **Call the Fire Service by dialling 999**
- **When the operator answers give your telephone number and ask for fire**
- **Do not end the call until the Fire Service has repeated the address back to you correctly**
- **If in doubt, get out**
- **Do not return to the building without permission from the Fire Service**

Keep escape routes clear

