



FIRE SAFETY AT HOME

If a fire breaks out at your home, make sure you call 999 immediately. The number is always free, and it could save lives.

For more information on fire safety, contact your local fire and rescue service. Please do not call 999 for any reason other than an emergency, or visit www.facebook.com/firekills

Did you know...?

- You're four times more likely to die in a fire if you don't have a smoke alarm that works
- Around half of home fires are caused by cooking accidents
- Two fires a day are started by candles
- Every six days someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette
- About two fires a day are started by heaters
- Faulty electrics (appliances, wiring and overloaded sockets) cause around 6,000 fires in the home across the country every year.

How to prevent common fires

In the kitchen

Cook safely

- To avoid risk, take pans off the heat or turn them down if you need to leave the kitchen whilst cooking
- Do not cook when under the influence of alcohol
- Avoid leaving children alone in the kitchen when cooking on the hob.
- Keep matches and saucepan handles out of the reach of children to keep them safe
- Keep saucepan handles facing inwards so that they don't stick out and get knocked off the stove
- Take care if you're wearing loose clothing as it can easily catch fire
- Tea towels and cloths should be kept clear of the cooker and hob
- Use a lighter or other spark devices to light gas cookers' matches have a naked flame, which makes them more dangerous
- Always check the cooker is off after you've finished cooking
- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water
- Check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order. A build-up of fat and grease can ignite a fire
- Don't put anything metal in the microwave.

Deep fat frying

- Take care when cooking with hot oil as it is highly flammable
- To prevent splashing - and potential accidents or injuries - ensure that food is dry before putting it in hot oil
- Turn off the heat if the oil starts to smoke. It means that it is too hot. Leave to cool and cook on a lower heat when you restart
- Use a thermostat-controlled electric deep fat fryer. They can't overheat.
- Consider over baking as a safer, healthier alternative
- Air fryers are a safer alternative to deep fat fryers.

What to do if a pan catches fire

- Turn off the heat - if it is safe to do so
- Do not throw water over it
- Don't tackle the fire yourself

Throughout the home

How to avoid electrical fires

- Check that you use the right fuse to prevent overheating
- Ensure that your electrical appliance has a British safety mark when you buy it
- Keep to one plug per socket where possible
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions when charging electrical goods, and look for the CE mark that indicates chargers comply with British safety standards
- An extension lead or adaptor will have a limit to how many amps it can take, so be careful not to overload them to reduce the risk of a fire. Appliances use different amounts of power – a television may use a 3amp plug and a vacuum cleaner a 5amp plug for example
- Keep all electrical appliances clean and in good working order to prevent them starting a fire.
- Look out for signs of dangerous or loose wiring, including scorch marks, hot plugs and sockets, fuses that blow or circuit-breakers that trip for no clear reasons, or flickering lights
- Replace any old cables and leads, especially if they are hidden from view
- Always unplug your appliances to reduce the risk of fire
- Ensure that all appliances are turned off when you go to bed, and when they are not being used.

Furniture

- Check that all your furniture items have a fire-resistant permanent label.

What do you do if there is a fire?

- Call 999 immediately
- Never tackle fires yourself. Leave it to the professionals
- Charnwood Borough Council has a 'stay put' policy agreed with the fire services. This means that unless the fire is in your flat you should stay inside your flat. If there is a need to evacuate the fire service will supervise this.
- Only leave immediately if fire and/or smoke affects your home, or if you are told to do so by the fire service
- Only get out if you are in doubt and it is safer to do so
- There is no need to investigate the cause of the fire - the emergency services will do that
- Keep low if there is smoke in your property. The air is clearer the lower you are
- When you are leaving, check the door for heat before you open it. If it is warm, don't open it – fire is on the other side.

