



FIRE SAFETY- DOS AND DONTs



Candles

Fact- More than five fires a day are started by candles

DO make sure candles are secured in a proper holder and away from materials that may catch fire- like curtains.

DON'T leave candles lit in a room that no one is in, or where children are on their own.



Smoking

Fact- Every three days someone dies from a fire caused by a cigarette

DO make sure that cigarettes are stubbed out properly and are carefully thrown away.

DO take extra care if you smoke when you're tired, taking prescription drugs, or if you've been drinking. You might fall asleep and set your bed or sofa on fire.

DO keep matches and lighters out of reach of children. Consider buying child resistant lighters and matchboxes.

DON'T smoke in bed.



Electric

Fact- Faulty electrics cause around 7,000 fires in the home a year

DO keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water.

DO keep your eyes peeled for signs of dangerous or loose wiring such as scorch marks, hot plugs and sockets, fuses that blow or circuit-breakers that trip for no obvious reason, or flickering lights.

DON'T overload electrical sockets, and always switch off and unplug electrical.

DON'T cover any electrical heaters or use them to dry washing.



Storage

DON'T keep petrol or petrol powered equipment in your flat or in the stairways or corridors. The vapour can ignite easily.

DON'T use portable gas fire heaters because there is a risk of fire and explosion if the cylinders are changed indoors.



Smoke Alarm

Fact- You're twice as likely to die in a fire if you don't have a smoke alarm that works

DO test your smoke alarm once a week by pressing the test button and holding it until the alarm sounds.

DO change the battery in your alarm once a year (unless it is a 10 year alarm or connected to the mains). Put the date in your diary.

DON'T disconnect or take the batteries out of your alarm if it goes off by mistake

Cooking



Fact- More than half of all fires in the home are caused by cooking accidents.

DO check toasters are clean and placed away from curtains and kitchen rolls.

DO keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order, a build up of fat and grease can ignite a fire.

DO double check the cooker is off when you've finished cooking.

DO be extra careful when cooking with hot oil- think about buying a deep fat-fryer which is controlled by a thermostat.

DON'T put anything metal in the microwave.

DON'T leave tea towels or cloths anywhere near the cooker or hob

Escape Plans



DO make a fire action plan so everyone in your home knows how to escape if there's a fire.

DO think of a second route in case the first one is blocked.

DO make sure exits are kept clear from furniture, decorations, rubbish bags, recycling boxes, bicycles and children's prams or buggies.

DO get into the habit of closing doors at night.

DO make sure keys to doors and windows are easy to find.