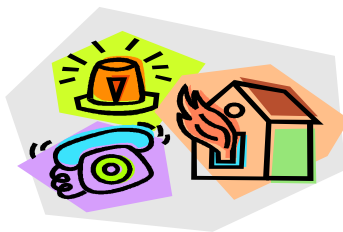


Safety in Your New Home!



Fire Safety

Ask your landlord:

Here are a few things that you can ask your landlord. If you are having problems contact the citizens advice bureau or local council for further advice.

- 1) Has your landlord arranged an electrical installation safety check recently? Is there an annual visual check of sockets, switches, lampholders, etc?
- 2) Is there a regular maintenance programme for gas heaters and appliances? Are the chimneys and flues cleaned regularly?
- 3) Has the landlord registered the house with the local authority as being in multiple occupation (HMO)?

If you live in rented housing, make sure your landlord is checking and maintaining equipment and appliances properly.

Electrics - Check that your landlord has arranged an electrical installation safety check recently.

Gas - Check that your landlord has a maintenance programme for gas heaters and appliances.

Smoke alarms are a great warning safety device. They are relatively cheap and if fitted correctly and checked regularly could save your life!

If you would like a smoke alarm fitted you can contact the local Fire Brigade on 01438 737399 to discuss the service they offer.

It is your responsibility to make sure the property is fitted with smoke alarms and that you do not take risks and cause a fire.

Cigarettes, candles, faulty wiring, and cooking are regular causes of fires around the home. Some contracts may stipulate that candles are not to be lit in the property. Some landlords may even restrict the smoking of cigarettes as a term of the contract.

Faulty wiring in the property is the responsibility of the landlord to correct. If the landlord does not fix the problem after you have informed them, they are in breach of your contract and are also putting your life at risk.

Certain Household Contents Insurance do not cover your goods in the event of a fire so it is a good idea to check what your policy covers!

Some things that you can do:

- 1) Fit a smoke alarm and check it regularly
- 2) Make a fire action plan so that everyone in your house knows how to escape in the event of fire
- 3) Take care when cooking with hot oil and think about using thermostatically controlled deep fat fryers
- 4) Never leave lit candles unattended
- 5) Ensure cigarettes are stubbed out and disposed of carefully
- 6) Never smoke in bed
- 7) Keep matches and lighters away from children
- 8) Don't sit or put things too close to heaters and fires
- 9) Take special care when you are tired or when you've been drinking.

<http://www.firekills.gov.uk> is a good website if you want to learn more about fire safety.

