

## Smoking

- Try not to smoke indoors.
- Never smoke in bed.
- Use an ashtray - never a wastepaper bin.
- Make sure your ashtray can't tip over.
- Don't leave a room with a lit cigarette, cigar or pipe alone in it.
- Keep matches and lighters out of reach of children.
- Always make sure your cigarette is out before throwing it away.
- Damp it with water before putting it in a bin.



### How to make your home safer

- Make sure your family knows what to do if there is a fire.
- Make sure you know what your fire evacuation plan is.
- Make sure you know the layout of your building.
- Keep door and window keys where everyone can find them.
- Check that your front door is not damaged or faulty.
- Close doors at night to help prevent the spread of fire.
- Never prop communal doors open.
- Keep escape routes clear from anything you could trip on if there was smoke in the building.

- Don't store anything in communal areas.
- Check that your furniture is fire resistant. Make sure it has this label if you buy any thing new or secondhand. Don't take off the label.



### Smoke and heat alarms

- Make sure you have smoke alarms.
- If you have any problems with alarms, contact us as soon as possible.
- Never cover smoke alarms.
- Test the smoke alarms in your home at least once a week.

### If you live in a block of flats

- Know your building evacuation plan.
- The fire evacuation plan is in the lobby.
- Put your rubbish in bins or chutes.
- Check that your front door can fully self-close.
- Never use paraffin or bottled gas heaters.
- If you use medical gases - let us know.

If you are worried about anything to do with fire safety, you should contact

**Thanet District Council**  
**01843 577262**  
or email [myhome@thanet.gov.uk](mailto:myhome@thanet.gov.uk)

The Fire Services website offers a lot of fire safety help and advice on this website  
[www.fireservice.co.uk/safety](http://www.fireservice.co.uk/safety)

## Tenant and Leaseholder Service Fire Safety in your home





## If there is a fire in your home get out, stay out call 999

- Don't try and put it out yourself.
- Keep calm.
- Get everyone out as soon as you can.
- The last one out should close the door to slow down the fire.
- If there is smoke, stay close to the ground.
- Call 999 as soon as you are clear of the building.

## You are responsible for fire safety in your home

- Don't keep anything on your balcony that could catch fire.
- Don't leave burning candles unattended.
- In summer months please don't leave mirrors in direct sunlight.
- Don't block the fire escape routes.
- If you see a fire risk in your home or building, let us know as soon as possible.

**01843 577262**



## Fires usually start in one of three ways

- By accident for example when cigarettes are not put out safely, when candles are knocked over, or if rubbish is put next to something that gets hot.
- If electrical items are not looked after.
- Deliberately, for example if people set fire to outside rubbish bins.

## Preventing fires

### Cooking

- If you leave the kitchen when cooking, take pans off the heat.
- Take care when wearing loose clothing so that it doesn't catch fire.
- Keep tea towels away from the cooker and hob.
- Use a safety gas lighter or hob ignition to light a gas hob, not matches or a cigarette lighter.
- Check the cooker is off when you have finished cooking
- Keep toasters clean and away from curtains and kitchen rolls.
- Keep the oven, hob and grill clean and in good working order.



## Safe use of electrical equipment

Things like toasters, kettles, and hair straighteners

- Keep electrical equipment away from water.
- Don't use damaged or faulty equipment.
- Take care to not overload sockets with too many appliances.
- Never plug an extension lead into an extension lead.
- When you buy electricals, check that they have one of these safety marks.



- Follow the instructions.
- Unplug them when you are not using them.

### Candles

- Try not to use candles.
- If you do, use a proper holder.
- Keep candles away from anything that could catch fire.
- Make sure they are completely out when you leave the room.
- Keep away from children and pets.

### Heaters

- Keep heaters away from anything that could catch fire.
- Never use them to dry clothes.
- Don't leave them on overnight.
- Switch off at the plug after use.

(This does not apply to storage heaters)