



Electrical Safety

South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue have listed their top tips to prevent electrical fires:

- Don't overload plug sockets – try to use one plug per socket and don't plug an adaptor into another adaptor
- Look out for signs of dangerous or loose wiring, such as scorch marks, hot plugs and sockets and fuses that blow
- High powered appliances, such as washing machines, should be plugged into a single socket
- Check the fuse ratings of appliances – normal extension leads only take a maximum of 13 amps
- If you use an electric blanket, check it regularly and roll it up or store flat – don't fold them
- Never use a hot water bottle in the same bed as an electric blanket and unplug it before you go to bed
- Don't buy cheap, unbranded chargers or equipment – stick to reputable suppliers and traders
- Don't leave white goods, such as washing machines and tumble dryers, on overnight

Rented Homes

When it comes to fire safety, it is important that tenants know what they should expect of their landlords, and vice versa.

Advice for tenants

The Housing Act 2004 governs housing conditions and standards in rented properties – the local housing authority then enforces these standards.

As a tenant, it is **your** responsibility to check your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors on a weekly basis. If you haven't got a carbon monoxide detector, please let us know – if your smoke alarm doesn't work when you test it or you don't have one on each storey in your home, please let us know and we will arrange to replace/fit one. If you do not have a thermostat or you aren't sure how to use it, please contact Arches.

For more information on home safety visit

<http://www.syfire.gov.uk/safety-advice/safety-in-the-home/>

Safe Heating

SYFR advise to keep your home temperature at around 18 degrees Celsius to prevent health problems. However, with the rise of cost of living heating your home will be difficult for households on a low income. SYFR have given their top tips on heaters and open fires in the home:

- If using electric heaters keep the space around them clear and don't trail wires across the floor
- Keep them away from curtains and furniture and never use them to dry clothes
- Turn portable heaters off when you leave the room or indeed leave the house for any length of time
- Always use a fireguard with open fires to stop flying embers
- Get your chimney swept, at least once a year
- It is important to have a working audible CO detector

The main heating system provided in your home is the most economical way to heat your home. Care should be taken with the use of portable electric heaters due to the risk of fire and it is not a cheaper alternative to heat your home. Arches Housing cannot agree to alternative forms of fuel to heat your home as this may be a breach of your tenancy agreement.

Carbon Monoxide

Where can this happen?

Carbon monoxide can be produced by:

- Charcoal or gas barbeques
- Blocked or poorly maintained chimneys or flues
- Gas cookers or clay ovens
- Gas boilers and gas fires
- Open fires

What you should do if you suspect something?

If you suspect you or someone you know has got CO poisoning, you should leave the property immediately and, if they are showing signs of poisoning or have collapsed, call 999 and ask for an ambulance.

Then, before you re-enter your home, you should call the **24-hour Gas Emergency Line on 0800 111 999**. Tell them what has happened and follow their safety advice.