

Apartment Fire Safety Tips



You may be well-versed in fire safety tips for homes but living in an apartment building presents a different set of concerns that you need to acknowledge, especially for those who live on a high floor of an apartment building. You can help protect and prepare yourself in the event of an emergency in your apartment building by following the precautions below:

1. Install Reliable Protection

Do your part in making sure your apartment has working smoke and co alarms installed. Alarms should be on every level for multi-story apartments, as well as outside each sleeping area and in every bedroom. Test your alarms monthly and change the batteries every six months, or upgrade to our 10-year sealed battery alarms for hassle free protection. Fire extinguishers should also be on every level of your apartment and in the kitchen. Have your kitchen fire extinguisher easily accessible in the event of a cooking fire.

2. Have An Escape Plan

If a fire were to start in your apartment building, do you know what your escape route would be? Start by counting the number of doors between your unit and the nearest fire exit. Look around your floor to make sure you know where all of the exit doors are and establish an evacuation plan that you practice regularly. If a fire does start, don't prop-open any exit or stairway doors. If you are located on a high floor, consider investing in an escape ladder for your window.

3. Stay Outside

Once you have safely evacuated your building, call 9-1-1 and do not go back inside. If you are worried someone is still inside, make sure to alert firefighters where you think they are. Only go back inside once firefighters tell you that it is safe to do so.

Apartment Fire Prevention

Help protect yourself and prevent fires from starting in your apartment with the following tips:

- Use surge protectors to keep appliances safe
- Don't overload circuits
- Don't use cords that are frayed or cracked
- Don't run cords under rugs or between rooms
- Never leave a portable space heater unattended
- Ensure children cannot reach matches or lighters
- Don't store flammable items inside of your apartment
- Never leave candles burning unattended
- If you are cooking something, don't leave food unattended on the stove



Be Prepared for the Unthinkable

- Never lock fire exits or doorways, halls or stairways. Fire doors provide a way out during the fire and slow the spread of fire and smoke. Never prop stairway or other fire doors open.
- Learn your building evacuation plan. Make sure everyone knows what to do if the fire alarms sound. Plan and practice your escape plan together.
- Be sure your building manager posts evacuation plans in high traffic areas, such as lobbies.
- Learn the sound of your building's fire alarm and post emergency numbers near all telephones.
- Know who is responsible for maintaining the fire safety systems. Make sure nothing blocks these devices and promptly report any sign of damage or malfunction to the building management.

Personal Responsibility

- If you smell smoke or see a fire, do not assume anyone else has already called the fire department.
- Immediately call 911
- Early notification of the fire department is important.

Getting Out

- Before you try to leave your apartment, feel the door with the back of your hand. If the door feels warm to the touch, do not attempt to open it. Stay in your apartment.
- Stuff the cracks around the door with towels, rags, bedding or tape and cover vents to keep smoke out.
- If there is a phone in the room where you are trapped, call the fire department again to tell them exactly where you are located. Do this even if you can see fire apparatus on the street below. Wait at a window and signal for help,

- If possible, open the window at the top and bottom, but do not break it, you may need to close the window if smoke rushes in.
- Be patient. Rescuing all the occupants of a multi-level buildings can take several hours.
- If on the other hand you attempt to leave your home and find that the exiting door is not warm to the touch, remember to brace your body against the door while staying low to the floor and slowly cracking the door.
- If there is no smoke in the hallway or stairwells, follow your buildings evacuation plan.
- If you don't hear the building's fire alarm, pull the nearest fire alarm pull station while exiting the floor.
- If you encounter smoke or flames on your way out, immediately return to your apartment or office.
- Once you are out of the building, STAY OUT! Do not go back inside for any reason.

