

SEASONAL FIRE SAFETY

Christmas is a very special time of year for all, and we want every one of our residents and customers to have a wonderful time. We also want to ensure that everyone remains safe, and are aware that there are a number of things which result in a higher than usual fire risk.

There are some practical steps which we would urge you to take in order to ensure that you remain safe in your homes and these are outlined below.

TREES & TREE LIGHTS:

TREES

- Water any 'real' tree to avoid the branches and foliage becoming dry and brittle
- Never place your trees near candles or other open sources of open flame or excessive heat
- Do not place near open fires or wood burners

BUYING TREE LIGHTS

- Buy from a reputable store
- Avoid buying used lights
- Look for safety marks e.g. BS Kitemark



USING & CHECKING LIGHTS

- Inspect cables and bulbs for damage before use & regularly during use
- Dispose of any damaged lights
- Use in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions
- Use an RCD for added protection
- Don't run the cable where it may be damaged
- Keep lights clear of decorations & flammable items
- Switch off the lights when you are asleep, or leaving your home
- Do not overload electrical sockets

STORING

- Store lights in dry conditions away from excessive temperatures
- Store lights in a place that will prevent damage

More information can be found on the [ROSPA](#) website and the government [website](#).

DECORATIONS

Do not attach decorations to lights or other sources of heat.

SMOKE ALARMS

Working smoke alarms are vital as an early warning when detecting the presence of fire. The following tips should be followed for smoke alarms in your home:

- Change the battery if it starts beeping
- Never disconnect or take batteries out of your alarm
- Test your smoke alarms regularly to ensure they work, monthly is usually recommended
- Never ignore your fire alarm if it sounds

More information can be found on the London Fire Brigade [website](#).

FLAT FRONT DOORS

A flat front door is the first point of safety against fire in a block of flats. Therefore it should never be altered, including adding letterboxes, cat flaps etc. If you need to make adjustments you must always speak with your property manager first.

SELF-CLOSING DEVICES

It can be tempting to remove or disarm these, so that you can leave doors open in your apartment.

Where your flat has been fitted with self-closing devices, they are a really important part of the fire safety strategy of the building and in case of fire will help to keep you safe. For this reason they must not be removed and be in good working order.

ARMA provide advice and guidance in their advice note, which can be viewed on their [website](#).