

Fire Safety Information

for low rise blocks

The safety of all residents living in properties of multi-occupancy, such as low rise blocks, is paramount to Wakefield and District Housing (WDH) and all residents must comply with WDH policies.

To reduce the risks of fires in common areas of low rise blocks, WDH will usually adopt a 'zero tolerance' approach and will not allow personal items to be stored in any common area. To ensure compliance with the zero tolerance approach, WDH officers will check areas at least every six months to make sure items are not placed in these areas.

In some blocks a 'managed use' approach may be adopted by WDH. This means that we will allow certain non combustible items to be stored in common areas and you will be given specific advice about where you can place these items from your housing officer.

The common areas in 'managed use' blocks will be checked every month. If any items are identified that are not allowed to be stored in these areas then you will be given seven days to remove them. If these items are not removed within this time, WDH may remove them for you and you will be charged for this service.

Fire Evacuation

If a fire occurs in your apartment, or it is affected by smoke or fire you should leave your apartment and the block immediately ensuring you close all doors behind you. You should call the fire brigade and wait at a safe distance away from the building so as not to impede their attendance.

If it is not safe for you to leave your apartment because of smoke or a fire in corridors, then you should stay in your apartment with the doors

closed, you should place a towel across the bottom of the door to prevent any smoke from entering your apartment and move to a window furthest away from your front door. You should try and attract someone's attention so they know you are in the building, as this will make sure the fire service can help you as quickly as possible.

You should only return to the block when authorised to do so by a fire officer or a WDH officer.

For more information about fire safety in low rise blocks please visit the WDH website at www.wdh.co.uk or contact OneCALL on **0845 8 507 507**.

