



Defence
Infrastructure
Organisation

Your Service Family Accommodation

Safety in the home

You've got home, locked the door, and settled in – but it is easy to fall into a false sense of security. However, many accidents sadly happen in the home and many of these are avoidable. Below are some straightforward safety tips that you can take to help to protect you and your family, and further information can be found on the www.gov.uk website at www.gov.uk/browse/housing/safety-environment. In addition, you and your family should familiarise yourself with your available escape routes in your home in the case of fire – plan your escape!

GARDEN AND BARBEQUES

Garden chemicals should be stored with great care and away from children.

Always use an in line RCD (Residual Current Device) for outdoor electrical appliances - such as the lawnmower.

Remember that some garden plants and berries are poisonous.

Light your barbeque on a stable surface well away from the house and flammable materials, such as fencing. Use lighter fluids sparingly.

Allow the ashes to cool completely before disposal. This includes disposable barbeques as they can set a bin on fire.



KITCHEN

Keep hot pans/boiling liquids away from the edge of the work surface. Avoid using ordinary deep fat frying pans.

Do not allow leads to hang down where they could be grabbed and pulled.

Keep cleaning chemicals locked away.

BATHROOM

Check and ensure that baths and showers are not too hot, especially for children.

Do not leave children unattended in the bath, for any length of time.

Keep toilet/cleaning chemicals and medicines locked away.



DIY PROJECTS

Do not undertake DIY projects, especially drilling/sanding. Email or write to the HASC for permission.

Permission is required because in the past asbestos materials were used in some homes. However, these materials present no danger if they are sealed and undisturbed.

If you suspect any asbestos materials are damaged, report your concerns to your maintenance helpdesk.



LOFT

You should not access the loft for safety reasons, and to avoid damaging your loft insulation or pipe work.

WINDOWS, CURTAINS AND BLINDS

Make sure window restraints are in place.

Keep cots and beds away and out of reach of curtain and blind cords.

Ensure your curtain and blind cords are short as practical and clipped where possible to prevent strangulation.



FIRE PREVENTION

All fires and heaters should be guarded and never dry clothes over them.

Never leave candles or tea lights unattended and use proper holders.

Do not overload sockets with multiple plugs or extension leads.

Apart from checking and changing the battery as instructed, do not tamper with your smoke or carbon monoxide alarm.

Do not smoke in bed.

GAS EMERGENCY

If you smell gas:

- Get fresh air immediately - open all doors and windows to ventilate the room.
- Switch off the appliance and turn off the gas supply at the mains.
- **Report it - England, Wales and Scotland: 0800 111 999 or Northern Ireland: 0800 002 001**

If you suspect a large gas leak evacuate everyone from the building immediately and call the relevant Gas Emergency number from somewhere else.

SUSPECTED CARBON MONOXIDE POISONING

- If you are feeling ill visit your GP or the hospital immediately, and tell them your symptoms may be related to carbon monoxide poisoning.
- Do not use any affected appliances until they have been checked by your maintenance provider – ring the relevant helpdesk for information.