

Guide to Balconies and Fire Safety

Balcony fire safety

If a fire breaks out on your balcony it could spread much faster than a fire inside your building. This is because inside buildings there are walls and doors that can contain a fire, as well as a more limited supply of oxygen which is what keeps a fire burning. Outside on your balcony, there is an unlimited supply of oxygen and a fire can quickly be blown by the wind, spreading it upwards and outwards and putting balconies or flats around you at risk.

If you discover a fire on your balcony - shut the balcony door if safe to do so, and internal doors. Leave the flat, raise the alarm and call 999.

What is **NOT** allowed on my balcony?

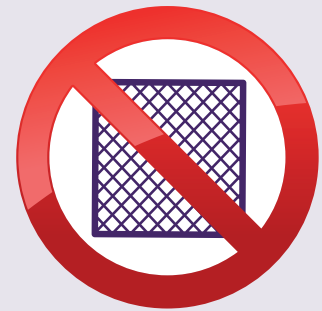


Do not use barbecues.

Falling embers from a BBQ can burn items on your balcony and others around you.



Never use fireworks of any type.



Never install reed fencing or other combustible screening.



You **must not** use an outdoor patio heater (gas or electric) or a flame pit.



Never store gas cylinders or any item containing flammable liquid.



Do not dispose of a cigarette by flicking it over the side of your balcony.

Reducing risk on my balcony

Try to keep your balcony clear

- Keeping your balcony as clear as possible will help prevent the starting and spreading of fires.

Smoking on your balcony

- Always fully extinguish cigarettes.
- Use an ashtray or bucket with water or sand in to dispose of cigarettes safely.

Storage of combustible or bulky items

- Do not store any flammable items on your balcony.
- Keep items to a minimum by removing any rubbish and combustible items like furniture, timber, decorating materials, children's plastic toys and other clutter.

White and electrical goods

White/electrical goods (such as fridges and tumble driers) must not be stored on balconies. They are not suitable for outdoor use and could start a fire.

What can I use my balcony for?

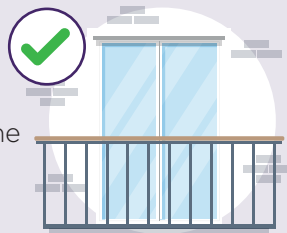
Items you can keep on your balcony

Plants are **OK** and will allow you to enjoy your balcony.

A few items of patio furniture are also **OK** to keep on your balcony.

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