

Fire doors

If your flat opens onto a communal area, your front door has to be a fire door designed to withstand fire for at least 30 minutes. Fire doors also reduce the circulation of smoke.

Why fire doors are important

In a fire, a fire door can help to protect escape routes, by keeping any fire in a contained space. They help to slow the escape of toxic smoke into corridors and other flats. By slowing the fire and smoke, people have more time to escape, there is more time for the fire and rescue service to attend, and tackling the fire will be easier.

Fire doors are fitted with a self-closing device. Either the door edge or the door frame will have strips that swell up when heated, sealing any small gaps in the event of a fire. They may also have cold smoke seals (which look like small brushes) to provide extra smoke protection.

All fire doors and self-closing devices should be regularly checked and maintained to ensure that they are operating correctly.

Fire door do's and don'ts

- **DO** let your door fully close, every time you use it.
- **DO** tell us immediately if your door doesn't close by itself – you shouldn't need to pull it closed. We will need to adjust it.
- **DO** let us know if any part of your door, door frame or self-closing device gets damaged.
- **DO** tell us if any of the fire/smoke seals or brushes are missing or loose.
- **DO** tell us if you have a letter box in your flat door and if any of the smoke seals or brushes around it are missing or loose.
- **DO** let us know if any fire doors in the corridors of your block are faulty (for example, a door closer is broken, the door isn't fully shutting, the frame is damaged or a glass panel is broken).
- **DON'T** remove any smoke seals or smoke brushes.



- **DON'T** remove or disconnect any self-closing device.
- **DON'T** alter any fire door in a way that could reduce its fire resistance.
- **DON'T** drill any holes in the flat door to fit door furniture, such as a safety chain.
- **DON'T** prop or wedge open any fire door.

