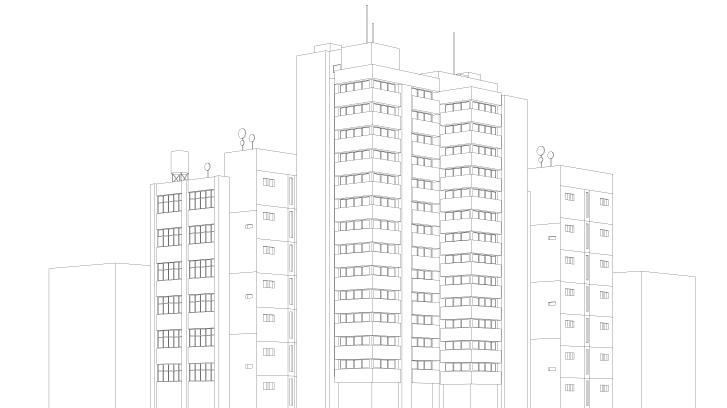


**Your shared areas**  
Keeping you and your  
neighbours safe

Barnet  
Homes

**We all need to work  
together to keep each  
other safe.**

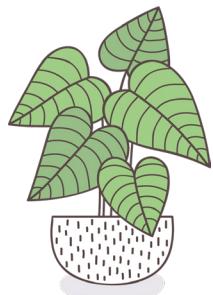
**Please don't let  
something get in the  
way in an emergency.**



The safety and peace of mind of our residents is our top priority. Please help us keep you safe by making sure your shared areas such as hallways, staircases (including the areas underneath staircases) and spaces outside your flat are clear. This means everyone will be able to get out of your building as quickly as possibly, should they need to.

We want you to take pride in your homes, and make them your own, but please be considerate of your neighbours and help keep each other safe.

Please read this leaflet carefully, and keep it to hand, so that you are aware of what you can and can't keep in your communal areas.



# Keeping shared spaces safe

The areas in your building that you share with neighbours, such as corridors, stairways and fire escapes are everyone's way out in the event of an emergency. There are two main hazards that can stop people getting out of the building safely:

-  Areas filling with smoke, making it hard for people to get out
-  Tripping over items left in shared areas as people try to leave.

Shared areas need to be kept clear at all times. This means items that could catch fire or get in someone's way, including bikes, prams and mobility scooters, should never be left in a shared area.

## Areas where we need to be more strict

-  In buildings where shared areas are closed, as they have a higher risk of filling up with smoke
-  In buildings where a lot of people live

**You can only keep personal items in shared areas if it's safe for you and your neighbours.**

**Items that could catch fire or get in someone's way should never be kept in shared spaces**

# **What can I keep?**



**WELCOME**

## **Doormats are OK**

As long as they don't have any carpet underneath, as this could catch fire



## **Small plant pots are OK**

As long as they are live plants, and the pots are made from ceramics or stone.

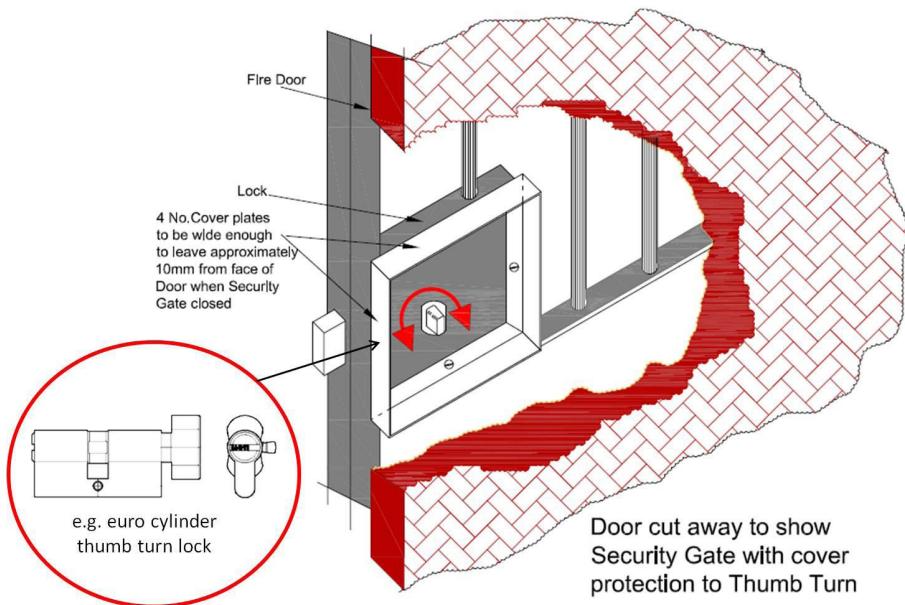
Please don't have too many pots as they can still pose a fire risk, and can make it difficult for our caretakers to clean shared areas.

Plastic or wicker pots or fake plants could catch fire and give off toxic smoke.

# Metal security gates or grilles have got to be safe

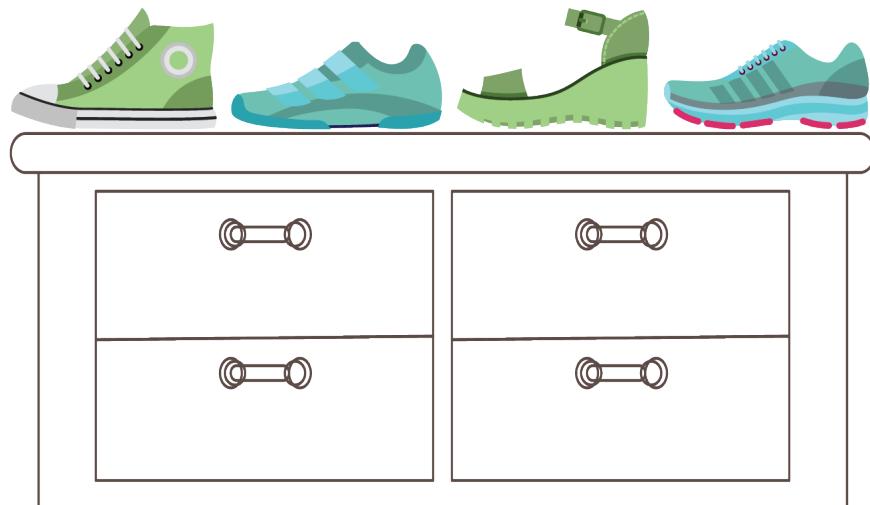
Grills that can be fully locked from the inside will not be permitted. The fastening mechanism should comprise a single devise, which can be operated manually from the inside without the use of a key or keycode.

If you are considering installing metal security grills, please ensure the design below is used. This design does not compromise the security of the grill, but will ensure the grill can be opened without the need of a key or keycode from the inside should the need arise.



# **Shoes and shoe racks have got to go**

These items are large and pose a fire risk, and a trip hazard for you and your neighbours



# **They've got to go:**



**Prams**



**Motorbikes**



**Rubbish**



**Bicycles**



**DIY items**



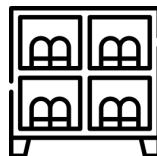
**Furniture**



**Plastic plants**



**Mobility scooters**



**Shoe racks**

All these items are fire, smoke or trip risks. They can't be kept in shared areas, so please find somewhere else safe to keep them.

# **Let's work together**

**Please follow the guidance in this leaflet, and work with your neighbours and our staff to keep everyone safe.**

**We will usually remove items that pose a risk to safety without notice and dispose of them, so please work with us to ensure this doesn't need to happen.**

**If you have any questions or concerns, please call us on 020 8080 6587 or email [talk2us@barnethomes.org](mailto:talk2us@barnethomes.org). In an emergency, always call 999.**



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@barnethomes