

# Balconies

## Balcony fire safety

Using your balcony in the right way is essential to avoid the risk of a fire starting or spreading.

Balcony fires can spread much faster than fires inside your building – because there is an unlimited amount of oxygen to keep them burning and they can quickly be blown upwards and outwards by the wind, putting the flats around you at risk.

## Balcony do's and don'ts

- **DO** keep your balcony clear of clutter – well-watered plants and a few items of patio furniture are ok, but completely clear is better.
- **DON'T** keep rubbish, or decorating materials, or wood, or children's plastic toys on your balcony.
- **DON'T** keep appliances like fridges or tumble driers on your balcony. They aren't suitable for outdoor use and could start a fire.
- **DON'T** use any kind of barbeque on your balcony. Embers from a BBQ can burn items on your balcony and blow onto other balconies.
- **DON'T** use a patio heater or a flame pit.
- **DON'T** use your balcony to store gas cylinders, or any item containing flammable liquid.
- **DON'T** set off fireworks or indoor fireworks on your balcony.
- **DON'T** install reed fencing or other combustible screening.
- **DON'T** dispose of a cigarette by flicking it over the side of the building. If you smoke on your balcony, use an ashtray or a bucket with sand and water, and get rid of the butt as carefully as you would indoors.

