

Press Release
6 August 2010

Hackney Homes urges residents not to use communal areas as dumping grounds

Hackney Homes advises residents to think twice before dumping unused items in communal areas including stairwell landings and walkways. Dumped items not only attract pests and look unsightly; they are also a fire hazard according to Graham Howgate, Borough Commander, London Fire Brigade.

He explains: "The communal areas in a block of flats are designed to remain clear of refuse and personal items in order to minimise the risk of a fire being started or allowing a fire within a flat to spread to the communal areas. Fires in blocks of flats are normally contained within the individual flat, however in some instances there is the potential for the fire to spread to the common escape routes.

Keeping these areas clear also aids escape for the residents and allows fire fighters access into the building to put the fire out. This is why we urge residents of Hackney Homes not to leave personal belongings or other unused items that could obstruct walkways or escape routes on their block."

Residents who have items to dispose of, can contact Hackney Council Bulk Waste Service on 020 8356 6688 to arrange for these to be removed free of charge. The Council will remove up to five items per collection and will make up to four collections per household each year.

If worried about dumped items in communal areas, residents can contact Hackney Homes Contact Centre on 020 8356 3691 in confidence.

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