

Keeping communal areas clear

Your responsibilities to keep you
and your neighbours safe



Fire safety

Keeping you safe in your home is our number one priority. We work closely with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service to make sure your home meets or exceeds the latest safety standards, but we also need your help.

Living in a block of flats makes you part of a special community which means you have to take some extra safety measures to keep you and your neighbours safe.

What is a communal area?

When you leave your flat, you may cross landings and balconies, walk down a staircase or through an entrance area which you share with your neighbours. These are known as communal areas.

If your block had to evacuate in an emergency, your communal areas must be clear so you and your neighbours can leave safely and do not prevent or delay putting the fire out.

It's because of this, we have one simple rule for all communal areas.

They must be clear at all times.

Why can't I store things in communal areas?

It's dangerous. Every second is vital when leaving a block in an emergency. You, your neighbours or a firefighter could trip over them, they could fuel a fire and make it worse, or they could give off smoke.

Keeping these areas of your block free of obstructions is also a requirement in your tenancy agreement.

There are also legal requirements that we have to follow to make sure your building always meets fire and safety requirements.

What will you remove from communal areas?

We'll ask you to remove everything.

Any possessions or waste in communal areas could cause a problem in an emergency.

We regularly ask our customers to remove things like:

- Pushchairs
- Plant pots
- Door mats
- Bikes
- Shopping trolleys
- Ladders
- Decorating equipment
- Furniture
- Household waste
- Barbeques
- Mobility Scooters
- Motor Bikes

What happens to items you remove?

If we spot any items in communal areas during our regular checks, we will remove them.

We will store them for 28 days and after that time we will either dispose of them or donate to charity. You may be recharged for the costs of our staff removing the item and storage.

We will post a notice through doors near where the item was stored which will include details on how you can collect your item from storage. You will need to bring photo ID and proof of address.

Get rid of items you don't need

Give it away

Wastesavers would love to have your unwanted items that are in a good reusable condition.

This social enterprise charity has two shops in Newport - the Tip Shop and the Reuse Centre on Chepstow Road.

They can collect large items of furniture for free.

Visit wastesavers.co.uk or call 01633 216 855.



Sell or give it away online

The item may not be any use to you, but you would be surprised what people will buy or take off your hands. Facebook Marketplace and eBay are a couple of popular sites.

Fix it

The new repair and reuse shop at 26 Skinner Street runs repair sessions where you can get items fixed by volunteers and will also run repair skills workshops.

You can also borrow items you need for a small charge.



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Take it to the tip

Newport City Council's Household Waste Recycling Centre is open every day except Christmas Day and New Year's Day. You must pre-book an appointment at newport.gov.uk/hwrc or call **01633 656656**.



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