

Close the Door to Stop a Fire from Spreading



Apartment doors and hallway doors are required by law to swing closed and latch by themselves after being opened (self-closing) so that in the case of a fire no one needs to remember to close the door to trap the fire and smoke and stop it from spreading. Doors that stay open allow fire and smoke to spread to hallways and other apartments! Self-closing doors should never be blocked from closing all the way.

Property owners and tenants can prevent a fire from spreading by making sure apartment and public hallway doors are operating properly. Property owners should check self-closing doors periodically and must make prompt repairs to door closing mechanisms or defective doors and door frames. **Tenants should not tamper with self-closing doors by propping doors open with objects, taping the latch, using wood wedges or kick-down door stops, or overriding the closing device.**

How to Make Sure Your Self-Closing Doors Is Operating Properly

Test it! Unless a door is visibly damaged, you will not know if it is operating properly until you test it.

1. Does the door swing fully shut and close completely after being opened fully?
2. If there is a latch, does it engage?
3. Note any underlying condition or obstruction that prevents the self-closing door from operating properly:
 - Door needs refitting – there is a large gap at the bottom of the apartment door
 - Defective closing mechanism
 - Device or item holding, or capable of holding, the door open
4. Is there any damage to the self-closing mechanism?
5. Are the hinges intact, or are they loose or missing?

When testing a door with an overhead closer, open the door as far as possible to check for any hold-open mechanism.

As a Tenant You Should

- Check your door to make sure it is self-closing.
- Contact the property owner if there are fire safety issues in your building.
- Call 311 to file a fire safety issue complaint.

More information on the other side.

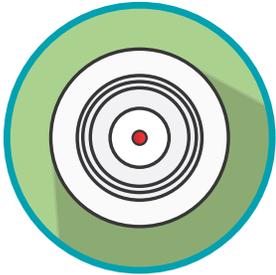
Keeping Your Home Fire Safe

As a tenant, make sure you are aware of these fire safety rules:



Self-Closing Doors

All residential buildings with 3 or more apartments must have self-closing doors. Check your door to make sure it is self-closing. When escaping a fire in your home, always close the door.



Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Detectors

Property owners must provide and install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Detectors should be maintained by the tenant, including testing and replacing batteries.



Fire Escape Plan

Property owners must post plans on the inside every apartment door, common areas and distribute them to each unit, to new tenants and annually during Fire Prevention Week in October.



Clear Exits

Make sure exits are clear of obstacles including fire escapes, hallways, and all building entrance doors, including roof doors. Only approved security gates that open without a key may be installed on fire-escape windows or secondary grade level exits.



Stove Knob Covers

Property owners must provide stove knob covers for gas powered stoves where a child under the age of six resides upon request by tenants. Stove knob covers must also be provided to any household that requests them.

Contact the property owner of your building if your front door doesn't self-close, you don't have a functional smoke alarm, obstacles block your exits that aren't your own, or you don't have the stove knob covers. If the issue is not corrected, you can register a complaint with 311.