



Know if You Live in a Fireproof or Non-Fireproof Building

The type of building you live in affects how you and your loved ones should plan for and escape a fire. Knowing if you live in a fireproof or non-fireproof building ultimately can save a life. Check with the New York City Department of Buildings (DOB) if you are unsure if your building is fireproof or non-fireproof. Remember, if you are in imminent danger from a fire or a fire is burning inside your apartment, get out immediately and call 911. Always listen to instructions from the Fire Department during emergencies.

Non-Fireproof Buildings

If you live in a non-fireproof structure and there is a fire in your building, it usually is safer to leave immediately. Generally, fires in non-fireproof structures are not contained easily to one portion of the building and can spread quickly.

Fireproof Buildings

If you live in a fireproof building, it usually is safer to stay inside your apartment rather than entering dangerous, smoke-filled hallways. Generally, fires in fireproof buildings will be contained to the portion of the building where the fire started. Additionally, if the fire is below your apartment, you could risk being caught in rising heat and smoke in stairwells. If you and your loved ones are not in imminent danger from a fire or a fire isn't burning inside your apartment, do the following:

- Keep your door closed.
- Seal doors or openings with duct tape, wet sheets or wet towels.
- Turn off air conditioners.
- It is okay to open your windows a few inches unless flames or smoke are coming from directly below.
- Do not break the windows as you may need to close them later.
- Call 911 and give the dispatcher your apartment number and description of the conditions. Follow instructions from Dispatchers; they are trained to help.
- Remember to always listen to instructions from the Fire Department personnel during a fire or emergency.

Once you have information about the type of building you live in, incorporate it into your escape plan.



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SHOULD YOU STAY OR SHOULD YOU GO?



The evacuation portion of your building's Fire Safety Plan will depend on whether your building is fireproof or non-fireproof and if the fire is in your apartment or some other portion of the building.

Owners of residential apartment buildings with three or more dwelling units are required by the New York City Fire Code to develop a Fire Safety Plan specific for their building.

The plan must contain basic fire safety tips and information about the building, including the type of construction, the types of fire safety systems and the different ways of exiting the building in case of fire or evacuation.

The owner is required by law to:

- Post the Fire Safety Plan on the inside of every apartment front door.
- Post the Fire Safety Plan in a conspicuous space in the common area.
- Distribute a copy to each dwelling unit in the building.
- Provide a copy to new tenants at the time of the lease.
- Re-distribute the Fire Safety Plan annually during Fire Prevention Week.

