



Frequently Asked Questions on Fire Safety for Homes on the External Wall Insulation (EWI) Programme: Pinehurst and Upper Stratton

Q1: Why is the Council carrying out refurbishment works to my home?

We are carrying out structural repairs and thermal improvement works to protect the fabric of your home and lower your heating bills

Q2: How many homes are on the refurbishment programme?

We have approximately 220 properties on the programme which includes steel framed properties in Pinehurst and concrete framed properties in Upper Stratton

Q3: Is the same work being carried out to all properties?

No, surveys are being carried out to identify improvement works to each property, as needed

Q4: Has my home been fitted with the same cladding used at the Grenfell Tower?

No, we have not used the same Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) panels or cladding that was used on the Grenfell Tower

Q5: What is the cladding system being fitted to my home?

We have used an external wall insulation system that is certified to be a low risk in relation to fire. The system has an expanded polystyrene board and external render finish, which is fitted direct to the existing structure

Q6: How do I know that the expanded polystyrene board will not spread fire?

The expanded polystyrene boards that we have fitted are fire-retardant, which means that they shrink away from the heat source and self-extinguish when the flame or heat source is removed

Q7: What classification does the external wall insulation system fitted to my home have in relation to the spread of flame?

This spread of flame classification for building materials is derived from British Standard 13501-1, which sets out the different ratings for building materials from A1 to F (A1, A2, B, C, D, E and F).

The A1 classification is the best performing, which is generally non-combustible, for example, an external brick façade. The classification F has no resistance to the spread of flame.

The SPSEnvirowall system has a Class B classification which means that it has a low contribution to a fire



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Q8: Is the external wall insulation system fitted to my home compliant with current fire safety legislation?

Yes. The SPSEnirowall system is compliant with the current Building Regulations and the system has also received further testing in addition to that required under current legislation for low rise housing.

Our Building Control team also inspect the external wall insulation system and certify that it is carried out to a satisfactory standard to be compliant with the current building regulations

Q9: Does the Council need to fit any internal fire doors fitted to my home?

We will fit new internal fire doors to any flats on the programme to bring them up to the requirements for the current building regulations

Q10: Is a Fire Risk Assessment required to my home?

There is only a legal requirement to undertake a Fire Risk Assessment to flats with a communal area. However, it is essential that you know what risks are within your home and how these can be reduced or prevented. You need to make sure that you have working smoke alarms and have an escape plan in case a fire breaks out

Q11: Our homes are being fully refurbished so why aren't sprinklers being fitted?

There is not a requirement to fit sprinklers within low-rise domestic properties and the strategy is for prevention and early detection so that you can escape quickly in the event of a fire

Q12: What arrangements have the Council put in place to detect a fire?

We have fitted hard-wired smoke alarms with a battery back up to provide early detection in the event of a fire. Where two detectors are fitted they interlink and have an operational light so that you know they are working. We also test them when we undertake our annual gas servicing/safety check to your home

You should also check your home alarm is operating correctly on a regular basis and report it to us if it is not working. We will arrange to replace any faulty smoke detector as quickly as possible and normally within the next working day.

Q14: Should I have a fire blanket or fire extinguishers available to tackle a fire?

No, these are not required and could potentially put you at risk of injury from fire

Q15: What should I do in the event of a fire in my home?

Wherever possible you should close all internal doors and make sure that everybody gets out as quickly as possible and dial 999 as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Fire Service advice is to 'Get out, Stay out and call 999' so that they can tackle the fire