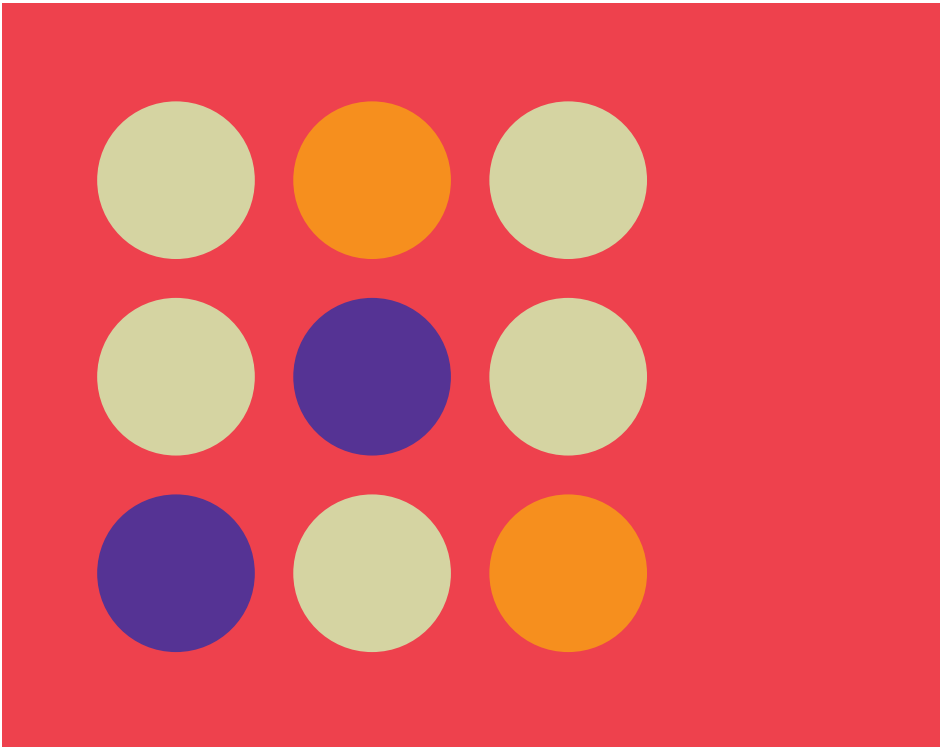


# Welcome to your New Home

A guide to living in your home



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# Welcome to your new home. This guide will provide you with the information you need for living in your new home.

## WHEN YOU MOVE IN

We want to make your move as enjoyable as possible and our welcoming and knowledgeable staff will be with you every step of the way to provide a service that is tailored to you and your needs.

- On the day you move a dedicated sales advisor will welcome you to your new home.
- A detailed homecare booklet will be provided to help you settle in.
- Shortly after you have moved in, we will make courtesy calls/visits to ensure you are happy with your new surroundings.

## GUARANTEES

If your home is a new property, it comes with a certain number of guarantees.

If the property you have purchased came with any appliances, such as a cooker, washing machine or fridge freezer, any faults have to be dealt with by the appropriate manufacturer.

You should have been given guarantee registration cards for those appliances and you will find contact details for the manufacturers listed on these guarantees.

The general guarantee period for appliances is usually 12 months, but please refer to the manufacturer's details for confirmation of this. Any extended guarantees can only be agreed between you and the manufacturer.

You are responsible for completing and returning the manufacturer's registration forms for the appliances in order to register your ownership under the terms of the guarantees. Subsequent claims against manufacturer's guarantees may be difficult to achieve, if your ownership has not been registered in this way.

## NHBC (THE NATIONAL HOME BUILDERS COUNCIL) OR SIMILAR SCHEME

Your new home is covered by a NHBC or similar industry regulated 10 or 12-year insurance scheme covering the fabric and structural integrity of your new home.

If you find any faults in your home after the defects liability period has ended, claims are dealt with by NHBC or the insurance company covering your property.





# Services

## **GAS, ELECTRICITY AND WATER**

When you move into your new home, please ensure that the supply of any service is transferred into your name and that meters are read to ensure you are not charged for the previous owner's usage.

As the owner of your home, you are responsible for paying the property's utility bills.

## **SERVICING YOUR BOILER**

Should your home have gas central heating, it is your responsibility to ensure that your boiler is serviced on an annual basis by a competent Gas Safe registered heating engineer.

If you decide to sell your home, you may be asked by the purchaser to provide proof of the annual servicing.

## **WATER**

With the exception of a genuine defect during the defects liability period, you are responsible for the maintenance of all the plumbing within your property. Please seek the advice of an experienced plumber.





## Maintenance and Repairs

Should your property need repairs or redecoration internally and externally, you are responsible for this. However, if you pay a service charge, external redecoration and repairs may be covered by this. Please contact us if you are unsure.

If your property has access to communal areas, we as your Landlord are responsible for the maintenance and repairs of those areas.

The structure of the property is insured by Longhurst Group. In the event that your property suffers any external damage, you may be able to claim under the buildings insurance. Information on how to contact our insurers can be obtained by contacting our Service Centre. You are responsible for insuring the contents of your property.



We recommend that extreme care be taken when nailing or drilling into ceilings or walls as pipes and electric cables may run beneath the surface. Please also be aware that plasterboard linings to partition walls may also perform fire, acoustic and vapour barrier functions. Any alterations which affect the integrity of these barriers may also affect the safety of you and your neighbours.



**You are responsible** for repairing and maintaining the inside of your home, this includes:

- The central heating.
- The water tank.
- Walls, floors and ceilings inside the property.
- The woodwork inside your property.
- Plasterwork.
- Decoration.
- Kitchen units.
- Air vents and extractors.
- Sinks, baths, toilets and showers.
- Electrics, plumbing and installation.
- Unblocking sinks, toilets and baths.
- Any damage caused by you or your visitors.

If you live in a house, as well as maintaining the inside of your home, you will also be responsible for any maintenance and repairs to the outside of your property and the land within your demise.

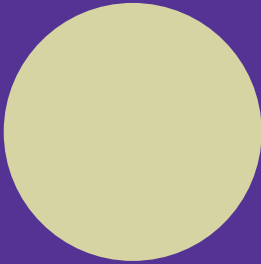


The roof access hatch is designed only for access into the roof space for maintenance purposes and we advise you not to store any items in this space. The loft insulation has to be kept in the original position with a minimum depth and all air vents left clear.



# About Your New Home

Understanding your responsibilities







## RESPONSIBILITIES OF LONGHURST GROUP

If you live in an apartment where the lease dictates that we are responsible for looking after the structure and outside of your home, you will pay a service charge. We will undertake repairs to the following:

- Roof.
- Outside walls, doors and windows (with certain exceptions for example glass).
- Gutters and outside pipes.
- Drains.
- Garden walls and fences (unless sold with an individual home).
- Pathways and steps (unless sold with an individual home).
- Shared communal areas.
- Shared TV and entry-phone installations.

## MAKING IMPROVEMENTS OR ALTERATIONS

If you would like to make improvements or alterations to your home, please refer to the 'About your lease and rights booklet'.

## CAR PARKING AREAS

Some of our developments have communal parking areas for use by you and your visitors. Usually parking is based on a first come, first served basis but on some developments, parking is allocated with the property. The plan within your lease will outline the area within your demise.



## REFUSE DISPOSAL

If you have wheelie bins, it is your responsibility to ensure that they are placed in the specified area at the right time and is emptied by the refuse collectors.

Some of our developments have larger communal refuse bins which are stored in designated bin store areas. If you use the large communal refuse bins, please ensure your rubbish is packed into polythene bags.



## PETS

Under the terms set out within your lease, you must obtain our written permission to keep any animal in your home. Should you be granted permission to keep a pet, it is your responsibility to ensure that the pet is kept under control at all times and no nuisance is caused to your neighbours.

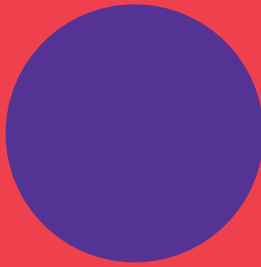
If your property is a flat, we are unable to grant permission for a pet to be kept, with the only exception being an assistance dog who provides support for a person with a disability.





# Living in Your Home

This section provides general information about living in your home.





### **DEFECTS AND DEFECT LIABILITY PERIOD (new homes only)**

The Defect Liability Period (DLP) is usually a period of either six or 12 months under which the builder is responsible for addressing defects within your property. The DLP commences when your landlord takes handover from the builder, not from when your sale completed.

A defect is a repair or problem with the structure, components, or finishes, which can be reasonably attributed to the builder.

Any defects should be reported to your customer service team. They will liaise directly with the builder.

You will be contacted when the DLP expires. An inspection of the property will take place at this time. Dates for the inspection will be arranged by your landlord. During the inspection, a list of any notable repairs will be made for the developer to address. The inspection will be carried out with the attendance of a representative from your landlord and the developer.

If a builder attends a defect repair, and it is apparent it is due to action by the owner, the builder will charge the landlord for attending and for any works carried out. If the owner is insistent that the problem reported is a genuine defect, a representative from your landlord will attend the property and give their opinion as to whose responsibility the repair is.

Typical instances of non-defective repairs that builders are asked to attend include:

- Radiators leaking after being removed to decorate behind.
- Pipes leaking after attempts to fit appliances.
- Electrical faults after attempts to install appliances.
- Doors requiring adjustment following carpet fitting.
- Damage to walls or floor coverings after moving furniture.

Defects such as these will be recharged to you.

At the end of the Defects Liability Period you will be responsible for addressing any defects and on-going repairs in your home.



## MOISTURE FROM CONSTRUCTION

When you move into your new home, there will still be moisture present from the construction period. This is normal but your home needs to be acclimatised gradually for the first few months to help it dry out slowly. If this is not done gradually, cracking can occur and if this happens, subsequent repair work will be your responsibility. Generally, if a crack is less than the thickness of a pound coin, it would be advisable to leave any cracking until the end of defects inspection so these can be checked at that time.

Gradual acclimatisation can be achieved by keeping your home at a reasonably even temperature at all times and your heating should be used sparingly. For ventilation purposes, when you are in the property we advise you to leave windows open.

## MOISTURE FROM OCCUPATION AND REDUCING MOISTURE PRODUCTION

Condensation can damage clothes, bedding, floor coverings, decorations and the home itself.

As a result of the structure drying out (a few months after construction), you should no longer experience condensation. However, some daily activities produce a great deal of water vapour, which can cause condensation around your home.

To manage this, it is advisable to maintain a moderate level of heating by setting the time clock so your home has pre-heated before your return. A property which is continually occupied, well ventilated and maintained at a warm temperature, is less likely to suffer condensation problems.

## MAKING A COMPLAINT

We hope you enjoy a high level of service from us but if you feel we haven't got it right and would like to make a complaint about our services, please call us or write to us. Please contact us or download a copy of our complaints leaflet from our website [longhurst-group.org.uk](http://longhurst-group.org.uk)

## ACTIVE DEVELOPMENTS – IMPORTANT SITE SAFETY INFORMATION

The following points apply to **all** residents residing on an active development. Please read the information carefully:

- Pedestrians to keep to designated walkways.
- Members of the public are **not** allowed on building areas unless escorted by a developer employee.
- Children must **not** enter building areas.
- Vehicles to keep to designated access and exit routes.
- Vehicles to be parked on driveways **at all times**.

# Your Summary

- All building areas are fenced off and should **not** be entered.
- Gates to building areas will be closed outside of working hours.
- The site compound area should **not** be entered at any time.
- Road sweeping will be carried out at regular intervals at the development.
- Please be aware that dust will be present whilst the development is still under construction.
- Any grievance should be addressed by contacting our service centre.



- 1 For new homes you are required to complete and return the manufacturer's forms for all appliances in order to register your ownership under the terms of the guarantees.
- 2 Your new home is covered by a NHBC or similar industry regulated 10 or 12-year insurance scheme.
- 3 Ensure that the supply of gas, electricity and water service is transferred into your name and that meters are read.
- 4 It is your responsibility to get your boiler serviced annually by a competent Gas Safe registered heating engineer.
- 5 You are responsible for the maintenance of all the plumbing within your property.
- 6 You are responsible for repairs or redecoration to your property.
- 7 If the structure suffers any external damage you may be able to claim under the buildings insurance.
- 8 You are responsible for arranging contents insurance.
- 9 If you would like to make improvements or alterations, please refer to the 'About your lease and rights booklet'.
- 10 New homes need to be acclimatised gradually to help them dry out slowly.
- 11 Active developments – residents should adhere to the site safety information provided.



# Contact Details

**For sales enquiries:**



☎ 0345 601 9095

✉ [newhomessales@longhurst-group.org.uk](mailto:newhomessales@longhurst-group.org.uk)

Further information relating to Longhurst Group can be accessed via our website:

**[longhurst-group.org.uk](http://longhurst-group.org.uk)**

The information contained within this booklet is offered in good faith and is believed to be correct.

However, accuracy is not guaranteed. No liability will attach to Longhurst Group, their representatives or agents in respect of any statement contained here.

