



A Sparks Electrical
Customer Satisfaction at Affordable Prices

Electrical Home Safety Guide

A simple guide to keeping your home and family safe





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The purpose of this document

Every year around 70 deaths and 350,000 injuries in UK homes are caused by faulty electrics and electrical equipment. Almost half of all domestic fires are caused by electricity. - [See Source](#)

We use electricity every single day and it is very easy to become complacent. We can forget just how dangerous electricity can be.

The purpose of this guide is to raise awareness for the importance of electrical safety and we have highlighted some of the most common things to look out for to keep yourself and your family safe.

Whenever you require any electrical work to be carried out always ensure you use a competent person/company.

So what does that mean?

It means that the person is qualified, experienced and has the necessary skills to ensure they can carry out your work safely and more importantly the work they do keeps you and your loved ones safe.





Electrical Safety within the Home.

Things to look out for:

1. Do you have cables under carpets or rugs? Not only can these become a tripping hazard you could also damage them by standing on them which could result in a potential electric shock.
2. Do you dry clothes on or close to electric heaters? Are they placed too close to curtains or other combustible materials? Ensure that the electric heater is suitable for drying clothes and is not in contact with any combustible materials.
3. Damaged plugs - Are the cables to your equipment damage-free?
4. Extension leads and socket adaptors should be used as a one-off and are not intended for permanent use. You run a higher risk of electrical fires especially if you use multiple leads plugged into one another.
5. Do you have multiple extension leads in your home? Could you do with some additional sockets?
6. Make sure when you use an extension reel cable, they are completely unwound. Failing to do this can cause the cable to get hot, melt and potentially cause a fire. When unwinding and re-winding the extension reel cable make sure you check the cable for cuts, abrasions and any other damage.
7. If you do notice any damage DO NOT use it, put it to one side and seek a replacement or contact a qualified electrician to **repair it**.



Electrical Safety - DIY Projects

1. Always ensure you use an RCD when using any power tools or electrical equipment. An RCD is a life-saving device that monitors the electrical current and is able to prevent fatal electric shocks.

Without it, if you cut through an electrical lead, a simple job like mowing the lawn could seriously harm you. Any socket that may be used to plug in a lawnmower, hedge trimmer, or any other power tool should have RCD Protection.

2. Check that the plug and lead for your power tools are not damaged before use.

3. Always find out what is in the wall before drilling any holes or hammering any nails, a cable detector can help with this.

Always look for what is on the wall to the side and below where you want to drill or nail. Cables usually run vertically and horizontally from sockets and switches. Cables can also be within 150mm (15cm) from the edge of a wall or ceiling.

4. Always make sure you switch off and unplug electrical equipment before carrying out any work.

5. Remember if you are ever in doubt always [consult a competent, qualified electrician.](#)



Electrical Safety in the Garden.

We all love to spend time out in the garden whether its having a barbecue, playing games or enjoying some sun bathing. But ensuring we enjoy it safely is the most important thing, below are a few tips to help you keep safe in the garden.

1. Make sure you always use an RCD when using any electrical equipment outside
2. Ensure your RCD has been tested within the last 6 months. (You can do this by pressing the test ('T') button and the RCD should trip.
3. Always store equipment in a dry safe place and never leave it outside unless told other wise in the manufactures instructions.
4. Never use any electrical equipment in the rain
5. When carrying out maintenance ensure the item is switched off and unplugged beforehand
6. Ensure all electrical equipment is brought from a reputable seller and has the British standard mark.
7. Check that all cables, plugs and equipment are not damaged in any way before use.
8. Remember when mowing the lawn to check where the cable is and to keep it clear from the area you want to cut.



Electrical Safety for Landlords

Private landlords in England must have the electrical installation in their rental properties checked by a qualified electrician to ensure that they are safe. These are called EICR's (Electrical Installation Condition Reports).

[This legislation](#) was introduced in June 2020 and checks must be carried out at least every five years or until change of tenancy.

If a landlord is found to not have complied with the law or if no attempt has been made to complete necessary remedial work that was identified, you could face a penalty fine of up to £30,000.

What does this involve?

The electrician will need access to your consumer unit (also known as a 'fuse board') They will also need access to your electrical outlets i.e. sockets, lights, switches etc... Whilst at the property the electrician will be carry out visual checks as well as carrying out tests using a test equipment.

The electrician will need to turn the electricity off for the majority of the visit and depending of the size of your property and amount of circuits you have depends on the time it takes.

What happens next?

You will receive either an unsatisfactory or satisfactory EICR. If the EICR is unsatisfactory you then have 28 days to have the necessary works carried out, and the installation brought up to a satisfactory standard.



Electrical Home Safety Checklist

Check that cables for your equipment has no cuts, abrasions or other damage

Ensure that there is no signs of overheating on equipment or plugs (No discolouring or melted parts/plastic)

Ensure there are no single cables shown (red/brown, blue/black, green/yellow) where the cable enters the plug or equipment.

Ensure that plugs are marked with the British Standard.

Ensure that sockets and switches are not broken or cracked.

Ensure that sockets and switches are secure and not loose.

Ensure that sockets are not overloaded. You can see if your sockets are overloaded with the help of this calculator. [\(click here\)](#)

Ensure that light fittings are secure and not loose

Ensure that the correct type of lightbulb has been fitted.



EHS Checklist Part 2

Ensure the cover is on and securely fitted to the consumer units(s)

Ensure that there is no access to live parts at the consumer unit/s

Ensure that the consumer unit/s has an RCD fitted

Ensure the RCD trips when pressing the test (T) button

Ensure that no combustible materials are stored next to the consumer unit/s

Ensure that smoke /heat/CO2 alarms are not out of date

Ensure that Sockets and switches are secure and not loose.

Ensure that smoke /heat/CO2 alarms sound when the test button is pressed

Outcome of inspection & action needed:

[Need an electrician? Click here!](#)

About A Sparks Electrical

A Sparks Electrical is a passionate company eager to make an impact in the industry to support both commercial and domestic clients across West London.

We provide a customer-first experience, with a dedicated team of industry professionals guaranteeing high-quality, professional work at competitive pricing.

A Sparks Electrical was born in the heart of Twickenham and delivers caring support and services to those across West London. We regularly take part in helping out the community where possible and we are proud to be part of such a fantastic area filled with such great people.

We have completed hundreds of jobs across West London and it's not uncommon to find potentially deadly hazards in people's homes, in schools, or even in care homes.

We wanted to raise awareness of how people can stay safe and protect their families, in order to prevent fires, injuries and deaths.



This guide is completely free of charge and always will be. We hope that we have explained the importance of electrical safety and the importance of working with competent electricians in order to keep you and your family safe.

If you ever need support or advice with any electrical work, your No.1 local electrician team would be more than happy to help.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

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