



Household electrical & gas

Safety tips...



Household Electrical Safety Tips

Electrical

There are about 12,500 electrical fires in homes across the UK each year. Although many incidents are caused by faulty appliances rather than the electrical installation itself, a properly installed and well-maintained electrical system could save lives. To try and prevent damage or injury to persons, livestock or the property the following tips have been put together.

Plug fuses

The common UK plug – Is generally fitted with a 3 amp or 13 amp fuse. For appliances up to 700 watt you need to use a 3 amp fuse. And for appliances over 700 watt you need to use a 13 amp fuse. Here are some common examples:

3 amp Fuse – Table lamp, standard lamp, television, video, computer, mixer, blender, fridge, freezer, power drill, jig saw, soldering iron.

13 amp Fuse – Washing machine, dishwasher, microwave, kettle, toaster, iron.

Manufacturers have now standardised plug fuse ratings to be either 3 amp or 13 amp. However, 5 amp fuses are still used in some older equipment and are available to buy.



Example of a typical
28W 2D 4PIN light fitting



General Tips

- Check sockets and switches for burn marks or damage
- Do not cover electric heaters with wet clothing
- Do not overload sockets with extension leads
- Do not use electrical equipment or switches with wet hands
- Don't bring mains-powered portable appliances such as hairdryers, heaters or radios into a bathroom
- An enclosed light fitting should be fitted in the bathroom. (28W 2D 4 PIN type generally fitted in our properties) - see example picture for reference
- When hanging up pictures etc. ensure nails are not hammered in a position directly above, below or horizontal of switches or sockets. (the cables should be routed there)



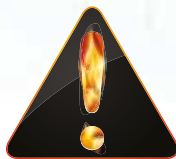
RESIDUAL CURRENT DEVICES (RCD)



MAIN SWITCH



TO RESET - TURN ON



Fuseboxes explained

Your Fusebox – the fusebox also known as consumer unit should be easy to find. You should make sure you know where it is in case you ever need to turn the electricity off in an emergency. It usually contains three things, and they are used to control and distribute electricity around your home. They are: The main switch; Fuses and/or circuit breakers; and Residual Current Devices.

A) Main Switch – this allows you to turn off the electricity supply to your home. You might have more than one mains switch, for example if your home has electric storage heaters. In this case you may have a separate fusebox.

B) Residual Current Devices (RCD) – these are switches that trip a circuit under dangerous conditions, and instantly disconnect the electricity.

If your home has one or more RCD, test them regularly. Just follow the instruction label, which you should find near to the RCD. It should read as follows:

“This installation, or part of it, is protected by a device which automatically switches off the supply if an earth fault develops. Test every three months by pressing the button marked ‘T’ or ‘Test’.”

Testing the button every three months is important. The device should switch off the electricity. You should then switch it back on to restore the electricity. Do not hold the test button for a long period if the RCD does not trip. If it doesn't switch off the electricity when you press the button, contact a qualified electrician. **(Parkway Green on 0300 111 0000)**

C) Circuit Breakers – these are automatic protection devices in the fusebox that switch off a circuit if they detect a fault. They are similar in size to fuses, but give more precise protection. When they ‘trip’, you can simply reset the switch. But make sure you correct the fault first.

Fuses – rewirable fuses have a piece of special fuse wire running between two screws. When a fault or overload current flows through the fuse wire, it will become hot and melt. The melted fuse breaks the circuit, disconnecting the faulty circuit and keeping you safe.

If your fusebox has a wooden back, cast iron switches or a mixture of fuses it is likely that it dates back to before the 1960s and will need to be replaced.

Information on caring for your fire or fireplace

Your safety is our priority. Your electric fire is fitted with an automatic thermal cut out to reduce the risk of damage in the event of abnormal operation eg: if covered or jammed with foreign object or if there is a build up of lint and dust inside the fire. In the event of overheating the appliance will then turn itself off.

1.

Unplug the fire – and wait 15 minutes to cool down. Then remove the cause of the overheating. This may require the fire to be cleaned to remove a build up of dust or removal of an object.

2.

Once the cause for overheating has been removed – switch on the fire to resume normal operation. If the heater will not operate, disconnect and seek expert advice. Call Parkway Green on 0300 111 0000 and our contact centre will put you through to the manufacturer.

Do not attempt to keep re-setting the safety device as this will cause potential damage and overheating leading to serious internal damage to the fire.

WE
RECOMMEND
KEEPING THIS
GUIDE IN A SAFE
PLACE FOR
FUTURE
REFERENCE.



bemodern
FIRES | FIREPLACES

Fires

If you require further information or technical assistance with your electric fire:

Call:

Willow Park:
0800 633 5500

Parkway Green:
0300 111 0000

Email:

customerenquiries@wchg.org.uk

Website:

www.wchg.org.uk

**CAUTION: ALWAYS SWITCH OFF THE FIRE & ALLOW TO COOL
BEFORE DOING ANY CLEANING OR MAINTENANCE**



DO NOT ❌

touch the fire with wet hands or in any way allow water to get into it.

use the fire in immediate surroundings of bath, shower or swimming pool.

DO ✅

Always switch off the fire and allow to cool before doing any cleaning or maintenance.



DO NOT ❌

place obstructions around the fire for instance curtains, furniture or clothing rails as this could cause overheating and a fire risk.

DO ✅

Keep the area around the fire free from obstacles to allow air to circulate freely around the fire.



DO NOT ❌

use detergents, abrasive cleaning powder or polish on the metal body of the fire, aerosols or steam cleaners on or around the fire.

DO ✅

Always wipe over the outer surfaces of the fire with a dry soft cloth.



DO NOT ❌

allow a build up of animal hairs, dust and lint around the fire or allow the outlet grill to become blocked with a dust build up.

DO ✅

To remove accumulation of dust or fluff, the soft brush attachment of a vacuum cleaner should be used to clean the outlet grille of the fire located under the canopy and around the base of the fire.



DO NOT ❌

cover the fire, use the fire to dry clothes etc. place materials or garments on the fire or around the base of the fire.

DO ✅

Ensure that furniture, curtains or other combustible materials are positioned no closer than 1 metre from the fire.



DO NOT ❌

force items into any of the fire openings.

DO ✅

Always use a fireguard when young children and infirm persons can come into contact with the fire.

Supervise children to ensure they do not play with the appliance.

**Helpful information
on gas safety on your holiday**

BE GAS SAFE ON HOLIDAY

How safe your holiday accommodation is might be the last thing on your mind but poorly maintained, badly installed and faulty gas appliances can leak poisonous carbon monoxide.

Don't let your summer break turn into a holiday hell, use these top tips to keep you and your family gas safe on holiday.



Gas

Tip 1:

Always take an audible carbon monoxide alarm on holiday. Remember to remove batteries on any flights.

Tip 2:

Check gas appliances in your accommodation for warning signs such as lazy luminous yellow flames instead of sharp blue flames or black marks or stains around the appliance.

Tip 3:

Remember the six main symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning - headaches, dizziness, nausea, breathlessness, collapse and loss of consciousness.

Tip 4:

For UK holiday homes check gas appliances have been maintained and have had an annual gas safety check by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

GAS SAFE REGISTER TM IS THE HALLMARK FOR GAS SAFETY IN GREAT BRITAIN AND THE ISLE OF MAN. BY LAW ONLY GAS SAFE REGISTERED ENGINEERS SHOULD CARRY OUT WORK ON GAS APPLIANCES IN YOUR PROPERTY.

GasSafeRegister.co.uk
0800 408 5500



Extra service for customers with reduced hearing or vision

To get this letter in Braille, large print or on CD:

Phone: 0300 111 0000

للحصول على هذه المعلومات بأي لغة أو بالبرايل أو بالحروف الكبيرة أو على شريط الرجاء الإتصال برقم الهاتف الموجود أسفله.

Arabic

如欲索取這資料以任何語言或盲人用點字、大字印刷編制的版本或錄音帶，請致電下列號碼。

Chinese

لطفاً برای دریافت این اطلاعات به زبان های دیگر، به خط بریل (خط ویژه افراد نابینا)، چاپ درشت و یا بر روی نوار با شماره تلفن زیر تماس بگیرید.

Farsi

Pour recevoir ces informations dans d'autres langues, en Braille, en gros caractères, ou sur bande sonore, prière d'appeler le numéro de téléphone ci-dessous.

French

यदि आप यह जानकारी किसी दूसरी भाषा, ब्रैल, बड़े प्रिन्ट या टेप में चाहते हैं तो कृपया नीचे दिये गये नम्बर पर फोन कीजिए।

Hindi

بۆ بەدەست هێنانی ئەم زانیاریانە بە هەر زمانێک یان بە بریال، بیتی گەورە یان لەسەر شریت، ئەوا تکیایە تەلەفۆن بکە بۆ ئەم ژمارەیە خوارەوە.

Kurdish

Si aad u hesho macluumaadkaani oo ku qoran luqad kasta, tan indhoolaha, daabacaad balaaran ama cajal ku duuban fadlan telefoonka hoos ku qoran:

Somali

یہ معلومات کسی بھی زبان، بریل، بڑے حروف یا ٹیپ پر حاصل کرنے کے لئے براہ کرم ذیل کے نمبر پر فون کیجئے۔

Urdu

Nếu cần bản tin này bằng ngôn ngữ khác, bằng chữ nổi cho người mù, chữ in lớn hay băng ghi âm, xin vui lòng gọi điện thoại số dưới đây:

Vietnamese

Willow Park:

0800 633 5500

Parkway Green:

0300 111 0000

www.wchg.org.uk