

Electrical safety in the home

Electrics can be extremely dangerous and are the leading cause of domestic fires in the UK. Please read our practical advice to reduce the risk of causing a fire or getting an electric shock at home.

Plugs, cables and sockets

- Make sure your plugs, cables and sockets are all in good working order.
- Don't overload sockets with too many appliances.
- If you need an adaptor, use a good quality multi-socket extension lead.
- Keep electrical leads away from water.
- Never use visibly damaged plugs, cables or sockets.
- Ensure plugs fit tightly into sockets.
- Fully extend extension leads before use.
- Do not run cables or extension leads under carpets or rugs.



Electrical appliances and lights

- Only buy electronic appliances and items from trustworthy sources.
- Only use electronic appliances according to the manufacturer's guidance.
- Always check for British Standards and EU approved kite marks.
- Always keep electrical appliances away from water.
- Switch off electrical appliances when not in use.
- Only use chargers supplied with mobile phones and devices.
- Do not leave mobile phones or devices charging overnight.
- Use the correct type and wattage of bulb for light fittings.

Electric heaters and electric blankets


- Do not cover heaters or dry clothes on them.
- If possible, secure heaters to walls so they cannot fall over.
- Position heaters away from flammable bedding, curtains and furniture.
- Do not leave heaters unattended or fall asleep with them on.
- Do not switch electric blankets on while folded or crumpled up.
- Do not use a hot water bottle with an electric blanket.
- Check electric blankets for scorch marks.




Charging electric vehicles

- The safest way to charge a vehicle is using a dedicated charging point. If you think your driveway is suitable for installing one, please contact us first to request permission.
- Never run an electric cable from your own home across the public footway. This is a safety hazard and must not be done.
- Check your charging cable regularly and replace it if damaged.
- Charging an electric car will require a specialist connection as the power used can be similar to that used by a cooker or a shower.
- Never use a domestic multi-socket extension lead when charging electric vehicles. If you need to use an extension lead, only use one suitable for outdoor use, such as a reel cable.
- Never 'daisy-chain' extension leads - plugging one extension lead into another increases the risk of electrical fires and electric shocks.

Contact us:

 01508 532000

 info@saffronhousing.co.uk

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