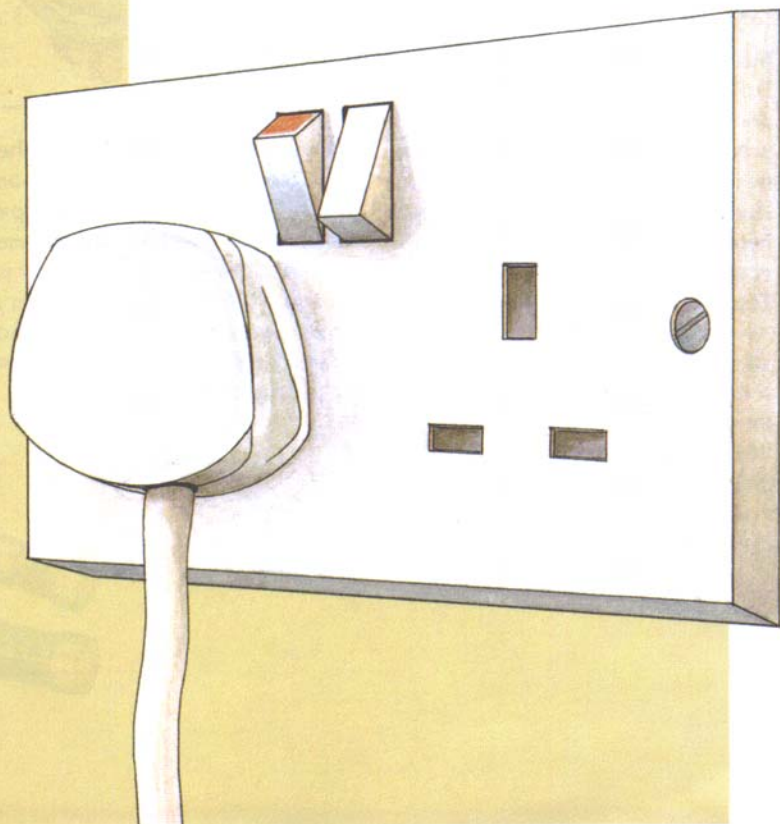




Electricity and You

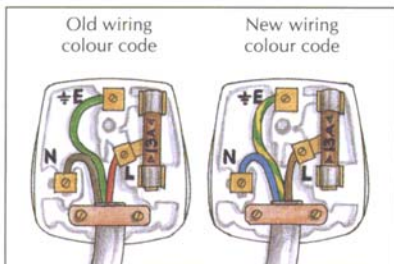
SAFETY IN YOUR HOME

Accidents with electricity are rare ... but even one accident is one too many. Protecting yourself, your family and your home is easy if you use care and commonsense. Here's how: ►



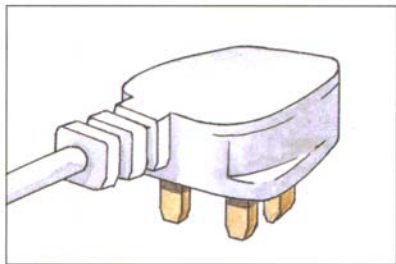
FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE RULES FOR SAFETY

All 13 amp flat pin plugs now sold are required by law to conform to British Standard BS 1363 and have sleeved pins. Those marked BS 1363/A are stronger.



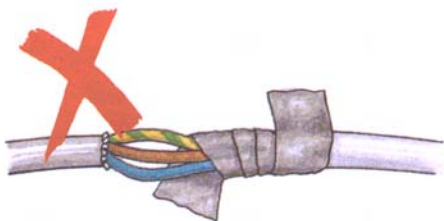
Make sure plugs are wired correctly. Full details are given in the *Electricity and You – Plugs and Fuses* leaflet but note especially the following. If your flexes have three different coloured leads, always connect them as shown here. If there are only two leads, connect them to the 'L' and 'N' Terminals – never to 'E' or '≡' (earth). Avoid stray 'whiskers' of wire. Tighten all screws firmly, with a suitable screwdriver. Make sure the clamp in the plug grips the outer sheath of the flex and not just the leads. With children around, use plugs with part-insulated pins – they are safer for prying fingers.

Some appliances have a ready fitted plug of the non-rewireable type. Should this plug become damaged or faulty you should cut it off and make sure that it is disposed of properly. Do not leave it where children may find it and plug it into a supply socket with the obvious consequent danger.

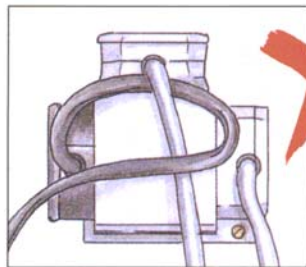


Always fit the correct fuse for the job. See *Electricity and You – Plugs and Fuses* for plug fuses and *Fuse Boxes* leaflet for the various sizes of fuses and their purposes in consumer units. If a fuse blows, never fit a higher rated one to get out of trouble or replace a cartridge fuse with fuse wire, even as a temporary measure.

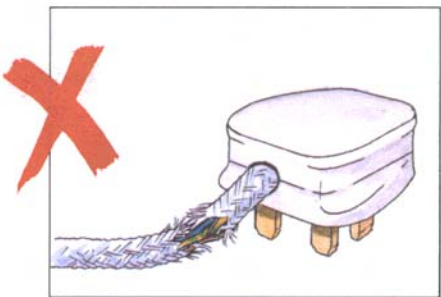




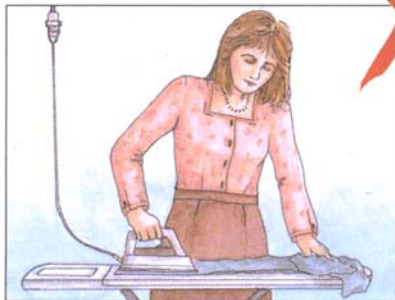
Use short, undamaged flexes. The shorter the safer – there's less to trip over. If the protective covering of a flex becomes frayed, split or worn, have it replaced at once. Never staple a flex to the wall or skirting, or run it under carpet or lino. And always use a single continuous length from plug to appliance, without joins.



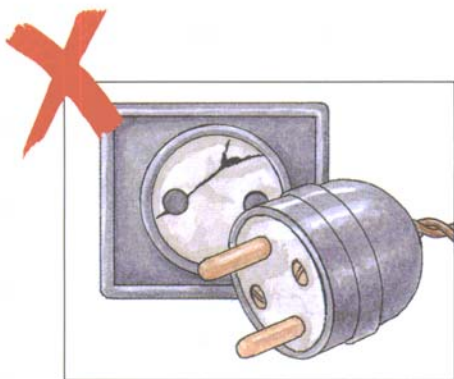
Use adaptors as little as possible. Ideally there should be a separate socket outlet for every appliance. If you regularly use two appliances from one point, have it replaced by a double socket. It's worth it for the convenience, let alone the safety.



Check flexes and fittings regularly. Get into the habit of a quick check every time you use an appliance. Look out for wear, damage, loose connections; also for cracked or chipped plugs and sockets. Have any faults remedied at once.



Use light fittings only for lighting. Never run an electric appliance from a lamp fitting. Make sure that all metal light fittings including standard and table lamps have a proper earth connection, using 3-core flex.



Have your house wiring circuit tested every five years. If your wiring is more than 30 years old, or if your socket outlets are of the *round* pin type (2-pin or 3-pin), it almost certainly needs to be renewed. Even if it's not so old it is still a wise precaution to have it tested at five-year intervals – particularly to check the earthing system. You may also find you need alterations or extensions, both to follow the safety recommendations above and also to cope safely with the increasing number of appliances and lights you may want to use in your home.

Get expert help for all repairs and wiring. If you discover or suspect a fault, or need any wiring work done, always call in an expert. Contact your Electricity Company, a member of the Electrical Contractors' Association or any other qualified electrical contractor. Professional skill and experience are essential and a list of the contractors who are on the roll of the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC) is available at Electricity shops.



NICEIC
Vintage House
37 Albert Embankment
London SE1 7UJ

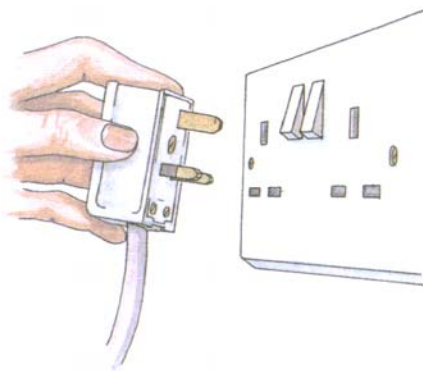
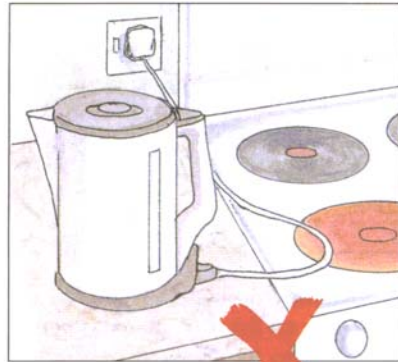
IT'S EASY TO USE ELECTRIC APPLIANCES SAFELY TOO

Look for the BEAB Approved label, when you buy electrical household appliances.



This is the mark of the British Electrotechnical Approvals Board. It means the appliance you choose has been type tested and approved for safety by an independent approval body. Don't be tempted to buy appliances secondhand; they may not be safe.

Keep appliances and flexes in good order. Have any appliance faults remedied straight away by a qualified technician. Never let a flex touch hot parts of a fire, toaster, cooker, iron, etc. Replace immediately if damaged.



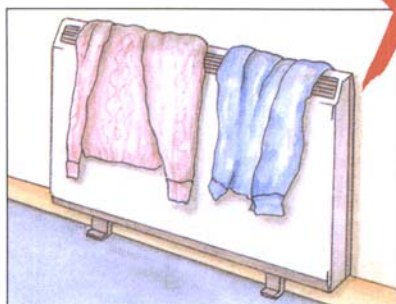
Heating

Radiant fires. Every radiant fire should have a permanent safety guard. Where there are children, an adequate fireguard *must* also be fixed in front of it.



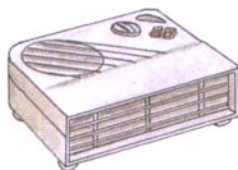
Radiant fires in small rooms *must* be fixed high on the wall, at least three feet from any furniture, curtains or doors (open or closed). Always switch off at the wall socket, unplug and let cool before cleaning.

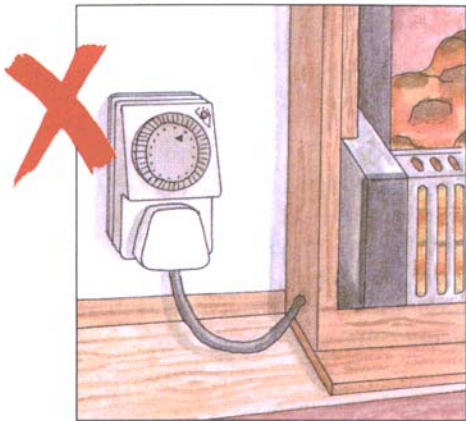
Convectors. Never drape anything over a convector or storage heater. Airing cupboard heaters *must* be shielded against falling clothes, and should have an overheat cut-out and indicator lamp.



Storage heaters. Follow maker's instructions for positioning against walls. Keep heaters at least three inches clear of curtains and furniture. Never obstruct air grilles. Guards are also available for use with storage heaters.

Fan heaters. Never cover or obstruct air grilles.





Time switches. Take special care with time-switched heaters. Make sure they are well clear of curtains, furnishings, etc., at all times.

Time switches and delay controls must never be fitted to radiant fires.

Lighting

Buy light fittings from a reputable dealer and take his advice about safety. Switch off before changing light bulbs, and let them cool before removing. Do not exceed the maximum wattage recommended on shades and fittings to avoid the risk of fire.



Kitchen

Never handle plugs, switches or any electric appliance with wet hands. Switch off and unplug all appliances before cleaning and make sure they are thoroughly dry before use. Do not allow flexes to overhang work surfaces.



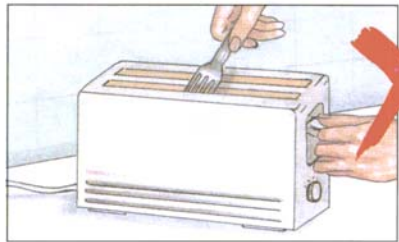
Cooker. Keep children away from cookers; surfaces can be hot. Turn pans so that handles are out of reach, and switch off the cooker at the wall panel when not in use. Do not line any part of the cooker with kitchen foil.



Take special care with cooking oil (this applies to all forms of cooker – not just electric ones). Use a pan which completely covers the boiling ring, and is at least five inches deep. Never fill more than one third full with oil, or two thirds full with added

food. Use a frying basket, lowering it slowly into the oil. Never cover pan with lid when heating or frying. Drain food over the pan. Never leave unattended. For frying it is preferable to use purpose-made deep fryers.

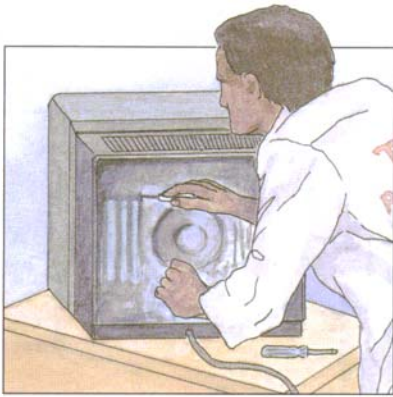
Kettle. Switch off and unplug at the *wall socket*, and remove flex, before filling or pouring. Fill with enough water to cover the element completely. Keep the cord out of reach of young children. Never allow the flex to hang over the edge of the work surface.



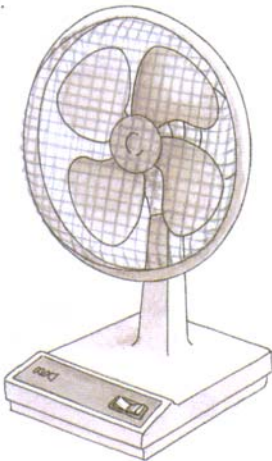
Toaster. If bread is stuck inside, switch off and unplug. Allow to cool, then remove the bread with care, avoiding heating elements. Never poke about with a metal implement.

Living room

Television and hi-fi. Switch off when not in use and remove the mains plug from the supply socket. Never attempt repairs – call in a specialist engineer.

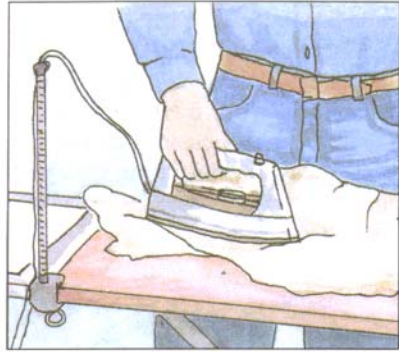


Portable fan. Fan blades should have a safety guard. Keep the flex clear of moving parts.



Laundry and cleaning

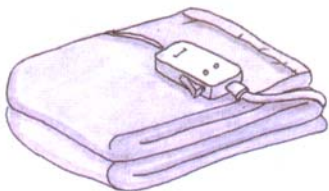
Iron. Make sure the iron is dry before use. Unplug steam irons before filling. Fit a flex holder to the ironing board. Never coil flex around a hot iron when storing away.



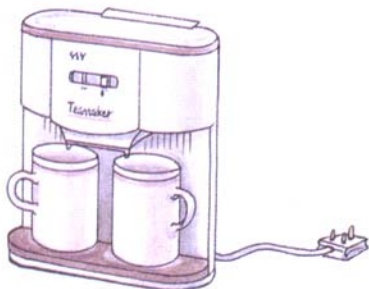
Vacuum Cleaner. Never pull along by the flex. Replace the flex at the first sign of wear.

Bedroom

Electric blankets. See the *Electricity and You – Electric Blankets* leaflet for detailed information but note the following points: Buy only a BEAB Approved blanket. All new blankets with BEAB Approval have overheat protection for extra safety. Follow maker's instructions carefully. Switch off the preheating under blanket type before getting into bed. Never use a blanket folded or creased. Never switch it on if damp. Never stick pins into the fabric. Have electric blankets inspected regularly.

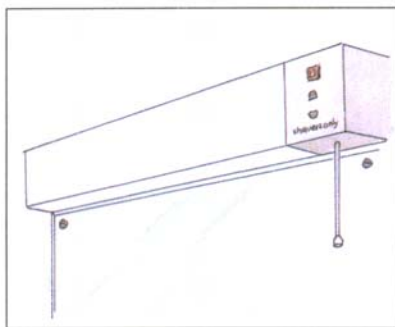


Tea maker. Keep the flex as short as possible, and make sure water doesn't drip on it.

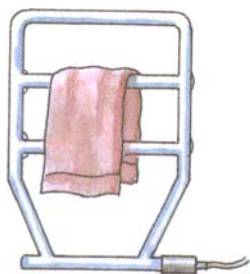


Bathroom

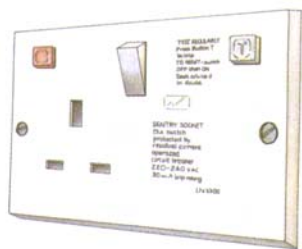
Electricity can be a luxurious boon in your bathroom, but special precautions are essential. Socket outlets are not permitted in bathrooms. Never use portable appliances, even if plugged in outside. The only exception is a



shaver, if used with a special permanent shaver socket with isolating transformer, complying with British Standard 3535.



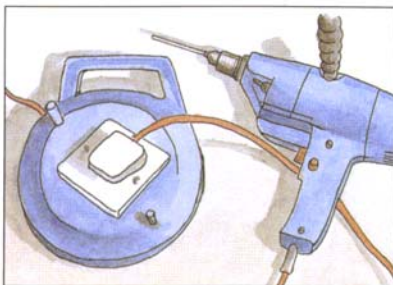
Fixed appliances. Radiant heaters, towel rails and mirror lights *must* be fixed firmly to the wall, never above the bath or near a shower, with permanent wiring (no sockets) and pull-cord switches. Radiant heaters must be well out of reach, with metal frames securely earthed and bonded to the remaining metalwork in the bathroom. Have all work carried out by a qualified electrician.



Garage, workshop, garden

When buying electric gardening tools and appliances always:

Look for the BEAB Label or Kitemark. It means the appliance you choose has been type tested and approved for safety. Make sure all the electrical appliances and equipment you buy are approved for safety.



Wiring. Extension leads should either be purchased ready assembled or be made up by a qualified electrician. Always use a single continuous flex, without joins. Never work with wet or worn flex. Never run power tools from a lamp socket; have a proper earthed (3-pin) socket fitted by a qualified electrician. Sockets used to supply equipment out-of-doors, eg lawnmowers or hedge-cutters, should be protected by a residual current device (RCD) having a tripping current of 30 milliamps or less. Outdoor sockets must additionally be under cover, or special splashproof or weatherproof units.

Call a specialist – it's sheer common sense

If you discover or suspect a fault in any electrical appliance, never try to repair it yourself. Contact your Electricity Company or other reputable electrical shop. With their expert advice and help, plus the tips given in this and other *Electricity and You* leaflets, you can be sure that you and your family will always get the best, safest service from electricity in your home.



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