

home safe home?



ELECTRICAL

SAFETY
COUNCIL

Improving understanding of legislation

If consumers are unaware of new legislation, they are unable to comply with it and ignorance is no defence in law.

One of the Electrical Safety Council's objectives is to help you understand current legislation and how it affects you. It publishes information on electrical safety legislation, Part P of the Building Regulations, and the Home Information Pack, which comes into force in June 2007.



What is the Electrical Safety Council?

The Electrical Safety Council is a consumer safety body supported by all sectors of the electrical industry as well as local and central government. It deals with all electrical safety matters associated with electrical installations and products on behalf of consumers. It is an independent, non-profit making organisation, registered as a charity.

The Electrical Safety Council intends to be a driving force in the field of electrical safety for the protection of consumers, working with other organisations to improve standards and promote best practice.



What is Part P of the Building Regulations?

Part P of the Building Regulations for England and Wales is an electrical safety law introduced by government in 2005 to reduce the risk of electric shock and fires in domestic premises caused by faulty electrical installations. Most electrical work in households must now either be inspected and approved by local authority building control staff, or be installed and certified by a 'competent person' registered with a government-approved scheme.

The Electrical Safety Council recommends you use an installer registered with one of the government-approved Part P schemes, which includes BRE Certification, BSI, ELECSA, NAPIT Certification and NICEIC.

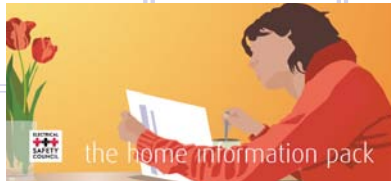
For further details visit: www.electricalsafetycouncil.org.uk

There are a number of advantages of you using a registered installer, including:

- There will be no Building Control charges to pay
- The installer can deal with all the requirements on your behalf
- The installer will arrange for you to receive a certificate confirming that the work complies with the Building Regulations.
- You have access to a formal complaints procedure if the work doesn't comply with the Building Regulations.
- You have the option of taking out an insurance-backed warranty which is a form of guarantee if the work is later found not to comply with the Building Regulations.

What is the Home Information Pack?

The Home Information Pack comes into force in England and Wales in June 2007. This legislation intends to make the buying and selling process easier and faster by requiring you (or your selling agents) to produce an information pack containing documents and reports relating to the property when marketing it for sale. The pack will include a Home Condition Report to provide sellers and buyers with a clear picture of the condition of the property before negotiations begin.



Who should carry out electrical work in my property?

Electrical work should be carried out only by a person with the necessary knowledge, skill and experience to do the job. It's easy to make an electrical circuit work – it's far harder to make the circuit work safely.

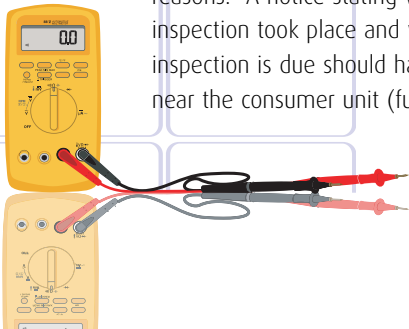
The Electrical Safety Council strongly recommends you using a registered installer to carry out any work that needs doing.

Registered installers should always work to the UK national safety standard (BS 7671). This requires that the installer inspects and tests the electrical work and issues a detailed certificate before the installation is safe to use.

How do I know if my electrics are safe?

The electrics in your home will inevitably deteriorate with use and over time so it is important that they are occasionally inspected and tested and at least every 10 years.

When you have an electrical inspection carried out on your property, you will be given a detailed report on its condition, and recommendations of work needed to be carried out for safety reasons. A notice stating when the last inspection took place and when the next inspection is due should have been fixed on or near the consumer unit (fusebox).



The voice of the consumer within the electrical industry

More information about 'Part P' and the 'Home Information Pack' is available in separate leaflets available on the Electrical Safety Council's website. Alternatively, to obtain a copy, please call us on the number given below.

If you need further advice on any of the information given in this leaflet, visit our website: www.electricalsafetycouncil.org.uk or call us on **0870 040 0561**

The **Electrical Safety Council** is here to help **you**.



The Electrical Safety Council

Website: www.electricalsafetycouncil.org.uk • Telephone: 0870 040 0561