

Switch on a light. Turn on the TV. Turn up the heating. Charge your phone. Cook the dinner. Houses have more and more electrical appliances. But any electrical appliance connected to a power supply can cause a fire. That means there's more risk of a fire in your home.

> SWITCH ON TO SWITCHING OFF

Switch off and unplug appliances like TVs, washing machines and tumble dryers that aren't designed to be left switched on. It's especially important when you're sleeping, or out of the house.

Switching off at the socket and pulling the plug out is the only way to be sure no electricity is flowing through an appliance. Just using the socket switch isn't safe because the switch could be faulty.

As well as keeping you safer, switching off and unplugging things at the wall saves you electricity and money!

Appliances like fridge-freezers, videos with timers and cordless phones are designed to be left on.

> BE A BRIGHT SPARK, GET THE RIGHT SPARK

Poorly installed electrical work can put you at risk. Thinking of booking an electrician to work in your home?

Visit: www.findanelectricianscotland.com

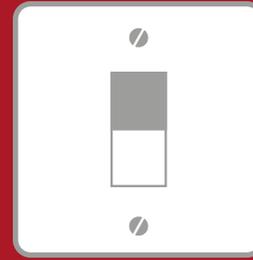
Find local, registered electricians who are regularly assessed by one of these industry groups: SELECT, NICEIC, NAPIT

Why choose a registered electrician?

- They work to the BS7671 safety standard
- Their work is regularly assessed
- They're insured, so you're protected
- It's a legal requirement for certain electrical work

> REMEMBER

- Always use the right fuse
- Never overload sockets
- Never run electrical cables under carpets
- Never repair or rejoin cables with insulating tape – always replace the whole cable
- Use electric blankets safely
- Switch on to switching off



Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk for practical fire safety advice. Or talk to your local firefighters. You'll find contact details on the website, in your local library and in the phone book.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format or a version in another language, please contact **0800 0731 999**.

TO BOOK A FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT
Call **0800 0731 999** Text 'FIRE' to **80800**
or visit www.firescotland.gov.uk



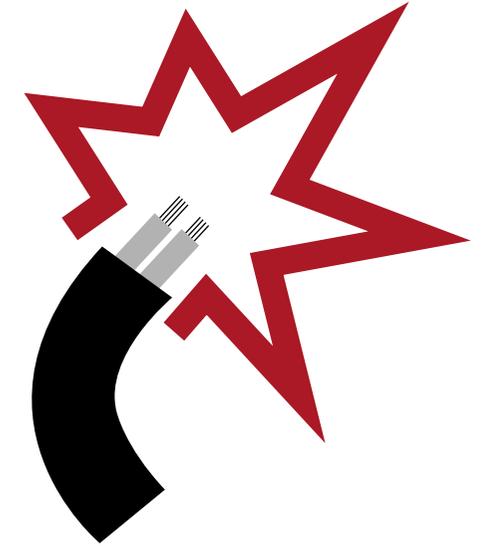
SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE

Working together for a safer Scotland

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@SFRSYourSafety



Fact.

Some of the **most common** causes of **fires** in the **home** are the misuse of electrical equipment, faulty leads and appliances.



SCOTTISH
FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE
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Domestic appliances including televisions, computers, music systems, hair straighteners, dish washers, tumble driers, cooking appliances and washing machines are a common source of ignition.

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➤ IF YOU'RE OUT, OR ASLEEP, IT'S JUST NOT ON

In Scotland, house fires involving white goods happen almost every day. Don't leave appliances such as dishwashers, tumble dryers and washing machines on when you are out or asleep.

➤ REGISTER MY APPLIANCE

Make sure you know about any safety advice or product recalls for your electrical items. Take a moment to check around your home and register your appliances at www.registermyappliance.org.uk

➤ CHECK FOR PRODUCT RECALLS

You can also check out the list of products recalled on the Electrical Safety First website to find out if your product is listed as a recall item. Visit www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/product-recalls

➤ HAIR STRAIGHTENERS

Hair straighteners can cause serious burns to children. They are hotter than a domestic iron or a boiling kettle. Make sure you put them off after use and out of childrens' reach.



➤ WHY DOES USING THE RIGHT FUSE MATTER

The fuse in a plug is a safety device that will 'blow' if an electrical appliance develops a fault. It cuts off the electricity to stop the appliance from overheating and causing a fire. If you fit the wrong fuse, it won't 'blow'. Check the manufacturer's instructions to make sure all your appliances are fitted with the correct fuse. As a general guide to fuses:

3 AMP FUSE

- lamps/bed lights
- televisions/radios
- electric blankets
- hi-fi/dvd players
- docking stations
- clocks/computers
- games consoles

13 AMP FUSE

- refrigerators
- heaters
- kettles/toasters
- washing machines/dryers
- irons
- hair straighteners

* These are guidelines only. Check the manufacturer's instructions.

➤ WHAT'S WRONG WITH USING ADAPTORS

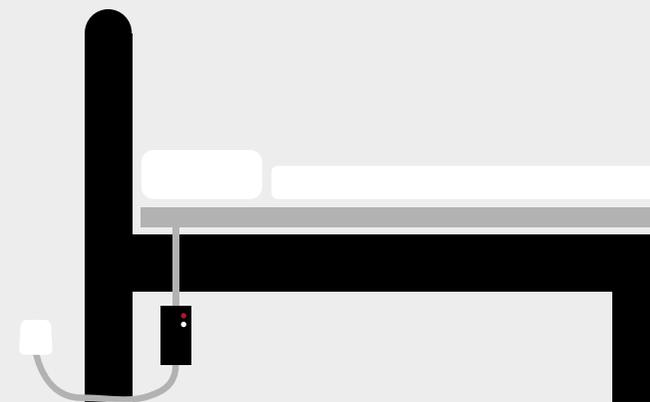
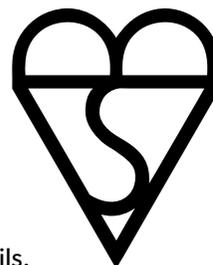
When you use them safely, adaptors let you plug more than one appliance into an electrical socket. But if you overload the adaptor it can cause a fire. Rather than using a block adaptor, consider using a multi-socket adaptor with surge protection.

Always make sure your adaptor is fitted with a fuse and has a kite mark from Intertek British Electrotechnical Approvals Board (Intertek BEAB).

Never use more than one adaptor in each socket.

Appliances connected to the adaptor should never use more than 13 amps of electricity in total.

Check appliance handbooks for details.



➤ KEEPING YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET SAFE

Blankets don't last forever. After the guarantee runs out – usually after 3 years – you should have the blanket tested and serviced regularly by the manufacturer. But check the cost. You may find it cheaper to buy a new blanket. Your new blanket should be approved by Intertek BEAB or marked BSEN60335-2-17:2002+A1,A2. It's best if it's fitted with an overheat protection safety system.

Use your blanket safely:

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Never leave an electric blanket switched on when you're in bed unless it's marked 'suitable for all night use'
- Tie under-blankets securely to the bed
- Check the blanket, plug and flex regularly for damage (e.g. fraying fabric, scorch marks, exposed wires). If you're in any doubt, don't use the blanket
- Store electric blankets safely – roll them, don't fold them