

Electrical Safety Checklist for Homeowners

Keep your home and family safe with these essential electrical checks

Electrical faults cause thousands of house fires in the UK every year. Many are preventable with regular checks. Use this checklist to identify potential hazards in your home.

[FREE CHECKLIST](#)

Sockets & Switches

- ☐ Check all sockets for scorch marks, cracks, or a burning smell
- ☐ Test that all sockets grip the plug firmly — loose sockets are a fire risk
- ☐ Ensure no sockets are overloaded with too many adapters or extension leads
- ☐ Replace any damaged or cracked faceplates immediately
- ☐ Check that light switches aren't flickering, buzzing, or warm to the touch

Consumer Unit (Fuse Box)

- ☐ Locate your consumer unit and ensure it's easily accessible
- ☐ Check it has RCD (Residual Current Device) protection — press the test button quarterly
- ☐ If your fuse box still uses old-style rewirable fuses, consider upgrading to a modern consumer unit
- ☐ Label all circuits clearly so you know what each switch controls

Cables & Wiring

- ☐ Look for any exposed, frayed, or damaged cables
- ☐ Don't run cables under rugs or carpets — this causes overheating
- ☐ Avoid using extension leads as permanent wiring — they're a temporary solution only
- ☐ Check outdoor cables and lights are rated for outdoor use (IP44 or higher)
- ☐ If your home has old rubber or lead-sheathed wiring, get a professional inspection urgently

Appliances

- ☐ Inspect appliance cables for damage — especially kettles, irons, and heaters
- ☐ Never use appliances with damaged plugs or frayed cables
- ☐ Unplug appliances when not in use — especially phone chargers and heaters
- ☐ Register new appliances with the manufacturer for safety recall notifications

When to Call an Electrician

- ☐ If your RCD or circuit breaker trips repeatedly
- ☐ If you smell burning or see sparks from a socket or switch

- ☐ If lights flicker or dim regularly
- ☐ If you're planning any renovation work that involves electrics
- ☐ If your home hasn't had an EICR (Electrical Installation Condition Report) in the last 10 years
- ☐ For any electrical work beyond changing a light bulb — always use a qualified Part P registered electrician

Top Tip:

An EICR (Electrical Installation Condition Report) costs around £150–£300 and is the best way to know the true condition of your home's electrics. Landlords are legally required to have one every 5 years.

Find NICEIC-registered electricians at WarringtonTradesmen.co.uk