








-  If you have broken lamp holders, single insulated cables which are not enclosed, makeshift wiring to appliances, unsupported wiring, or fittings which are not secured, call a licensed electrical contractor to make them safe.
-  Never use electrical equipment outside unless it is connected to an earthed power point protected by a Residual Current Device (RCD), safety switch.
-  Before cutting, drilling or nailing into a wall, ceiling, or roof, make sure you know where any electrical wiring is located so you don't cut through it.
-  Never place metal ladders or other metal objects on extension cords, as they could cut through the cord's insulation.
-  When working on a metal ladder make sure you don't contact live wires, especially the supply cable to your house.
-  A shock from a water pipe, even a tingle, may indicate a problem. Contact your local electricity distributor immediately.
-  Install safety switches to provide additional protection from electric shock and minimise fire risk. But, be aware that safety switches are only a back-up, and will not prevent all electrical fatalities. They are no substitute for using electricity safely.



Tasmania

Department of Infrastructure  
Energy and Resources



Electricity Standards  
and Safety

Produced by the  
Office of Electricity Standards and Safety

30 Gordons Hill Road, Rosny Park  
(PO Box 56) Rosny Park Tasmania 7018

Telephone: 6233 7831

Website: [www.wst.tas.gov.au/electricity](http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/electricity)





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# Electrical Safety Tips



***Electricity is an essential part of our daily lives. It provides energy for water, home heating, cooling, cooking, refrigeration, lighting and all of our modern appliances. If electrical appliances are installed by experts and used wisely, it is a safe and economical energy source. But every year people are killed or injured by electric shocks because they weren't aware of the dangers or didn't use electricity safely.***

***This fact sheet provides basic safety tips on installing and using electrical appliances safely.***

-  Never park, store, transport or operate irrigation pipes, tip trucks, boat masts, cranes and radio aerials near or under power lines. Look up to ensure you stay clear of power lines.
-  Never fly kites or model aeroplanes near power lines. If a kite does become entangled, if tree branches are touching power lines, or if power lines have fallen or sagged, contact your electricity distributor.
-  Never do your own electrical work or interfere with electrical wiring or equipment. Always use a licensed electrical contractor for installation and repairs.
-  Always read and follow the manufacturer's instructions on electrical appliance use and maintenance.
-  Never use electrical appliances or extension cords where they could be splashed or fall into water. If one does get wet, switch off at the power point, unplug it, dry it out and have it checked.
-  Never touch electrical appliances, switches, power points or lights with wet hands or a damp wash cloth.
-  Never spray power points or switches with cleaners or insecticides: if there's a crack, moisture can contact live parts.
-  Never use a portable electric heater in a bathroom, and make sure that combustible materials are kept well away from heaters.

-  Good ventilation in kitchens, bathrooms and laundries prevents condensation building up on power and light switches and appliances.
-  Never use homemade extension cords, cords which have a 3-pin plug on each end, or a twin flex (two wires) as an extension cord. Use only extension cords with earth, active and neutral wires, and a 3-pin plug and socket.
-  Cords and plugs should be checked regularly and replaced if frayed or damaged. Watch for danger signs like scorching, melting or blistering.
-  Check electrical appliances regularly for any damage needing repair. Look for flickering, smoke, fizzing, spluttering, popping, hot fuses or erratic stop-start running.
-  A tingle or a shock is a warning. Switch off and disconnect the electrical appliance at the power point, label it to stop others using it, and report the incident to your electricity distributor.
-  Never use broken switches and power points. Have them replaced by a licensed electrical contractor.
-  Never wash or immerse electrical appliances in water, unless manufacturer's instructions allow it.