



Cables and leads

- Check cables and leads regularly for signs of fraying or damage. Make sure the outer covering of all power leads is in good condition and replace if necessary. Never use tape to mend or join cables.
- Cables and leads should not be positioned anywhere that they could be tripped over, or near water, cookers or other sources of heat.
- Don't run cables or leads under rugs or carpets where they can wear through without anyone noticing.

Never use water on an electrical fire – get out, stay out, call 999.



For a free Home Fire Safety Check

Contact us

☎ 0800 05 02 999

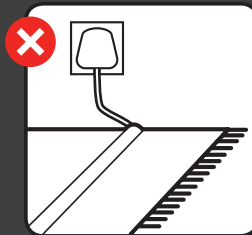
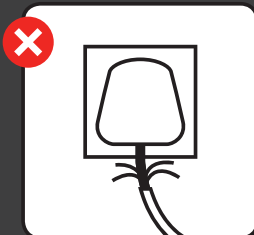
@ firekills@dsfire.gov.uk

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Text info line: 078 00 00 2476

To request any information in this document in an alternative format or language please call **0800 05 02 999** or email **firekills@dsfire.gov.uk**

Electrical safety



Electrical safety

Faulty electrics, appliances, wiring and overloaded sockets cause around 7,000 house fires across the country every year.

Lighting and lamps

- Don't position lights or bulbs near curtains and other fabrics. The heat, which you cannot see, will set the fabric above alight within hours.
- Ensure you have the correct bulb for the light fitting.
- When installing lights, such as down-lighters, only use a qualified electrician.

How to avoid electrical fires

- Make sure an electrical appliance has a British or European safety mark when you buy it.
- Keep electrics (leads and appliances) away from water.
- Remember – one plug per socket. If you need more plugs than there are sockets, use a bar-type fuse adaptor.
- Unplug appliances at night or when you're not using them to reduce the risk of fire – unless they are designed to be left on all the time such a fridge or freezer.
- Keep electrical appliances clean and in good working order to prevent them starting a fire.
- Don't put anything in the microwave that is made of metal, or has a metallic finish or parts.

Plugs and sockets

- Watch for signs of dangerous or loose wiring such as: scorch marks, hot plugs and sockets, fuses that often blow, circuit breakers that trip for no obvious reasons and flickering lights.
- Don't overload sockets – plugging too many electrical appliances into one socket can lead to overheating.
- Certain appliances, such as washing machines, should have a single plug to themselves, as they are high powered.
- An extension lead or adaptor will have a limit to how many amps it can take, so be careful not to overload them to reduce the risk of fire. Appliances use different amounts of power – a television may use a 3amp plug and a vacuum cleaner a 5amp plug for example.
- Look out for signs of badly wired plugs – any coloured wires sticking out could come loose and debris could also get into the plug making it a fire hazard.
- Never cut sealed plugs off to use them again.

