

Home **safe** home?



ELECTRICAL

SAFETY
COUNCIL

Helping people **understand the law**

If you are not aware of new laws, you cannot keep to them, and ignorance is no defence in law.

One of our aims is to help you understand current laws and how they affect you. We publish information on electrical safety laws, Part P of the Building Regulations, and the Home Information Pack.



Who are the **Electrical Safety Council**?

We are an independent, non-profit-making organisation, registered as a charity, set up to protect the safety of consumers. Supported by all sectors of the electrical industry as well as local and central government, we deal with all electrical safety matters on behalf of consumers.

We are 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.



For advice on electrical safety visit our website at www.esc.org.uk .

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 the Government in 2005. The aim was to reduce the risk of electric shock and fires in homes 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 by an electrician registered with a government-approved scheme who provides a certificate.

We recommend you use an electrician registered with one of the government-approved Part P schemes. For more details, visit: www.esc.org.uk .

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

- you will not have to pay any building-control charges;
- the electrician can deal with everything for you;
- the electrician will arrange for you to receive a certificate that confirms the work meets Building Regulations;
- you have access to a formal complaints procedure if the work doesn't meet Building Regulations; and
- you can choose to take out an insurance-backed guarantee when you have the work done, and you can make a claim if the work is later found not to meet Building Regulations.

What is the **Home Information Pack**?

The Home Information Pack came into force in England and Wales in August 2007. This law aims to make buying and selling property easier and faster by making you (or your selling agents) produce an information pack containing documents and reports relating to the property when marketing it for sale. The pack may include a Home Condition Report to give sellers and buyers a clear picture of the condition of the property before negotiations begin.



Who should carry out **electrical work** in my property?

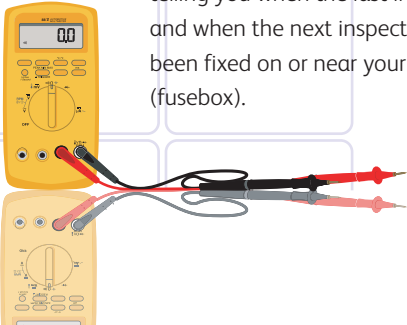
Electrical work should be carried out only by people who have the knowledge, skill and experience to do the job. It's easy to make an electrical circuit work – it's far harder to make the circuit work safely.

We strongly recommend you use a registered electrician to carry out any work that needs doing. Registered electricians will work to the UK national safety standard (BS 7671), and will issue a safety certificate for their electrical work to confirm that the installation has been designed, built, inspected and tested in line with that standard.

How do I know if my electrics are **safe**?

Over time and with use the electrics in your home will show signs of wear and tear so it is important that they are inspected and tested 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 the work needed to make it safe. A notice telling you when the last inspection took place and when the next inspection is due should have been fixed on or near your consumer unit (fusebox).



The voice of the consumer within the electrical industry

You can get more information about 'Part P' and the 'Home Information Pack' in separate leaflets available on our website. To get a copy, please call us on the number given below.

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

We are here to **help you**.





www.esc.org.uk

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V3july07