

# Be Power Safe!

Most households have multiple appliances and gadgets requiring power by electricity resulting in the need for extension leads. Reduce the risk of over loading extension leads by following a few simple tips:



**Electrical hazard**

- Know your amps and watts! Electrical power is measured in watts (W) and the current is measured in amps (A).
- Extension leads should be clearly marked with the current rating, though they are usually 13 A, some are 10 A or less. Find the information on the back of the extension lead, or if not, refer to the manufacturers instructions.
- Items plugged into an extension lead should not exceed the maximum current rating once combined. This could cause the plug in the wall to overheat and possibly catch fire.



- An extension lead should never be plugged into another extension lead.
- If you are unsure use the 'Socket Overload Calculator' on our leaflet page, provided by [www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk](http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk) to check if what you are plugging into the extension lead is exceeding the maximum load.
- Know the current ratings for items used in your house – some examples are provided below



Washing machine uses 10 A  
Tumble Dryer uses 11.0 A



Mobile phone chargers use 0.5 A or less

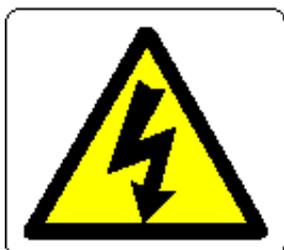


42" Television usually uses 0.5 A



Laptops usually use 0.5 A or less

- Block adapters put more strain on the wall socket, some do not have a fuse, so it may be safer to use a multi-way bar extension.
- Ensure you use a registered electrician to carry out electrical works. It may be worth considering installing more sockets if your household constantly uses extension leads.
- Check for danger signs regularly. These may include but are not limited to the following:



- Smoke or sparks coming from a plug or appliance
- A smell of burning plastic near a socket or appliance
- Scorch marks around the socket
- Fuses that blow without obvious reason
- Damaged wires or leads

# GH

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