

How to...

Ensure
you are
power safe



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Most households have multiple appliances and gadgets requiring power by electricity resulting in the need for extension leads.

This guide will provide you with information about the safe use of extension leads and how to spot any dangers.



Reduce the risk of over loading extension leads by following a few simple tips:

- 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 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

For further information visit www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk
or contact a qualified electrician.



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