

Guide to undertaking electrical work in the home

Dangers associated with electrical current

The human body is a good conductor of electricity- it flows easily through our bodies.

Why? Humans are made up of a high percentage of water, something electricity can move through easily. Electricity will always take the quickest possible path to earth.

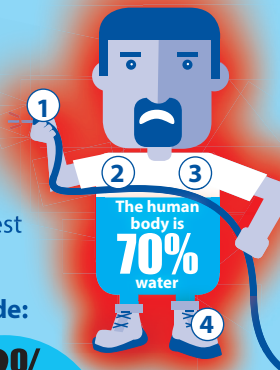
A real electric shock is very painful and dangerous. Symptoms include:

- 1** Muscles tighten up, making it almost impossible to let go of the equipment
- 2** Lungs constrict, making it hard to breathe.
- 3** Heart constricts and blood vessels tighten.
- 4** Burns occur where electricity enters and exits the body.

It sounds scary, but ensuring your home meets Building Regulations will help ensure you don't get hurt.

12%
of all accidental domestic fires in Great Britain caused by distribution systems

11,685
people visited A&E during 2014-15 as a result of electric shocks



What is the law

Electrical safety requirements for dwellings are set out in Part P of Schedule 1 to the Building Regulations.

All electrical work in dwellings in England and Wales, whether carried out by registered electrical installers, by unregistered trades people or people undertaking DIY must meet the requirements of the Building Regulations.

Building Regulations are in place to keep you and your family as safe as possible from electrical hazards, and applies to new domestic properties, as well as any alterations or additions to electrical installations in existing properties, including full or partial rewires.



Where can I find out more about how to comply with Part P and other Building Regulations?

Technical guidance on meeting the requirements is contained in Approved Document P and can be downloaded for free from the Gov.uk website.

www.gov.uk/government/publications/electrical-safety-approved-document-p

To find out more about what Building Regulations apply to electrical work, visit: www.napit.org.uk/homeowner/consumer-advice-electrical-diy-work-and-the-electrical-certifier-scheme.pdf

How to comply with the Building Regulations

People who are responsible for building work (for example, the agent, designer, builder or installer) must ensure that the work complies with all applicable requirements of the Building Regulations.

The building owner is also responsible for ensuring that work complies with the Building Regulations and could be served with an enforcement notice for non-compliance.

If electrical work is notifiable, there are three routes you can take to ensure compliance:

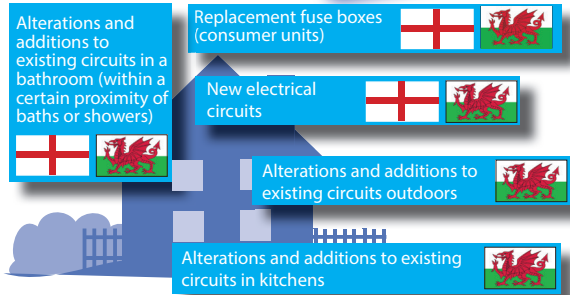
Routes to compliance



Is all electrical work notifiable?

No. Not all electrical work requires notification to your local authority BUT all electrical work must comply with the Building Regulations and be installed in compliance with BS 7671.

Electrical work which requires notification differs between England and Wales.



What should I expect to receive on completion of electrical work in my home?

Work carried out	Certificates issued	Building Control Notification required	
		England	Wales
A new circuit has been installed.	Electrical Installation Certificate	✓	✓
	Building Regulations Compliance Certificate (also known as a Part P Certificate)	✓	✓
A fuse box/ consumer unit has been replaced or a new one installed.*	Electrical Installation Certificate	✓	✓
	Building Regulations Compliance Certificate	✓	✓
An existing circuit has been added to or altered in a room containing a bath, shower, swimming pool or sauna heater.	Minor Electrical Installation Works Certificate	✓	✓
	In many cases you will need a Building Regulations Compliance Certificate	✓	✓
An existing circuit has been added to or altered. For example, in a kitchen or outdoors.	Minor Electrical Installation Works Certificate <i>(Required for all installations in both England & Wales)</i>	✗	✓
	Building Regulations Compliance Certificate in kitchens and outdoors in Wales only		(In kitchens & outdoors)
Electrical installations are checked for deterioration or damage caused over time.	Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR)	✗	✗

*These must comply with the non-combustible requirements in amendment 3 of BS 7671.



If you are in any doubt about your own electrical competence, how to comply with Building Regulations or whether the tradesperson you use is registered with a Competent Person Scheme, visit:
www.electricalcompetentperson.co.uk for further information