

Safety in the home

There were approximately 175, 000 house fire emergencies in Australia in 2007 with 50% of the fatal emergencies caused by heaters or electrical faults.

Please remember that the majority of electrical work around the home needs to be conducted by a licensed electrician. For your own safety, do not try any of the following yourself:

- Repair any electrical appliances
- Replace a power point or light switch
- Change any pre-existing electrical wiring
- Install your own electrical wiring
- Change a plug on a lead

However, by being aware of the possible risks from faulty electrical devices, you can decrease the risks to family and friends. This form has been developed by electricians to help consumers ensure that their homes are electrically safe. To get the most out of this form, please print it out and have it with you as you move through the house.

Cords and Power Points	Y/N	Outdoor equipment	Y/N	Safety Equipment	Y/N
Are any of your light switches or power points cracked or coming away from the wall?		Are all your external power points and lights protected against the effects of weather?		Do you have a safety switch installed in your switchboard?	
Do you have cords that are damaged or frayed?		Have you checked that electrical appliances are at least 2m from your pool?		Do you check your safety switch every six months by pushing the test button?	
Do any of your cords have broken or damaged pins?		When running extension leads, do you ensure that they are suspended or fixed to avoid damage?		Do you have a surge protector to protect your sensitive electrical appliances?	
Have you ever done any electrical work or have you repaired faulty appliances?		When digging holes in the yard, do you check for underground services?		Do you have smoke detectors installed?	
Do you have multiple adaptors and leads attached to a single power point?		When moving ladders and equipment, are you aware of overhead powerlines?		If the smoke detectors are a battery type, have you changed the battery and tested the alarm recently?	
Do you have cords running under rugs or through areas where they could suffer mechanical damage?		Do you check for overhead lines before flying kites?		Do you have a fire blanket or fire extinguisher and have they been tested recently?	
<i>If you have answered yes to any of the questions above, we would advise that you contact a Master Electrician to check the faulty or damaged wiring. Please, never attempt any electrical work yourself.</i>		<i>If you have answered NO to any of these questions, you need to change your approach to work safely and avoid unwanted electrical damage.</i>		<i>If you answered NO to any of the questions above, you should consider your family's safety and call a Master Electrician.</i>	