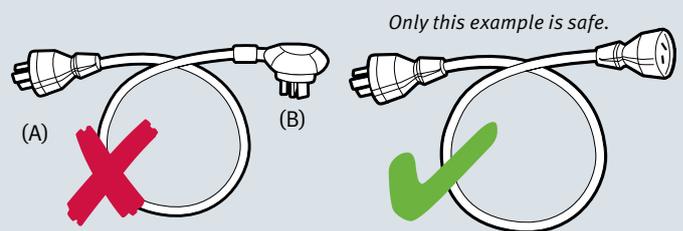
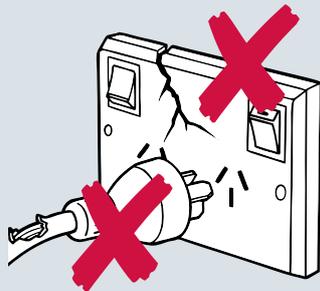


# Are your electrical leads safe?

## Be safe around leads

The leads on your appliances and extension leads are constantly being moved and can eventually be damaged through wear and tear.

In some cases damage to your leads may be visible (e.g. the insulation cracking or coming away from plugs). In other cases the damage may not be visible (e.g. with the damage being inside the lead). In such a situation, the appliance may still operate but it could be unsafe. Visually checking and inspecting leads regularly is a good policy to follow.



## NEVER use double-ended leads.

Check the illustrations. If plug (A) was to be connected and switched on, exposed live pins on plug (B) could kill or injure any person coming into contact with them.

## Always buy factory-made leads

Use only factory-made extension leads or those made by a licensed electrical contractor. Extension leads and products such as workshop lamps are readily available from your electrical retailer or department or hardware store.

## Always use a licensed electrician

In Queensland, it is illegal for unlicensed people to perform electrical work. This includes repairing, or making your own electrical leads. Significant penalties of up to \$30,000 can apply to individuals.

Never attempt to do your own electrical work—it's dangerous, illegal and can be fatal. Always get a licensed electrical contractor to do any electrical work.

Contact details for licensed electrical contractors can be found in the Yellow Pages, White Pages, local newspapers or by contacting an electrical industry association.

When choosing a licensed electrical contractor, always look for their electrical contractor licence number in any advertisement, and confirm that they have a current licence before agreeing to any work. You can do this by checking their electrical contractor licence, or via the online licensing database at [www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au](http://www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au).

## Wearing the right shoes can help reduce the risk of electric shock

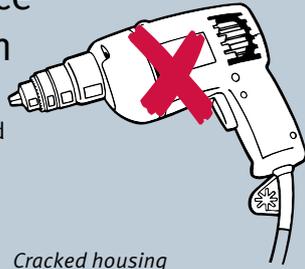
Wearing enclosed rubber or plastic-soled shoes when using electrical appliances in laundries, on concrete floors, or outdoors may give you extra protection against electric shock.

To be effective in giving you some protection against electric shock, shoes should have dry insulating soles, i.e. rubber or plastic. A large number of serious or fatal electrical accidents are the result of people being barefoot when coming into contact with electricity.



## Regular maintenance is a wise precaution

It is dangerous to keep working with frayed, perished or damaged electrical leads, or to use any equipment in poor condition. Broken switches and power points are a constant risk.



*Cracked housing*

Do not use them. Cover them up right away then contact a licensed electrical contractor to replace them as soon as possible.

Neglect is a major cause of many electrical accidents. That is why safety-conscious householders have a licensed electrical contractor carry out a full maintenance check regularly on appliances, electrical wiring, extension leads and electrical equipment. Most responsible people have their car serviced regularly by a qualified mechanic, so why not a regular electrical maintenance check-up?

## Think safe—Be safe

When an appliance needs adjusting or cleaning externally, before you start, always switch off the power then pull out the plug (never by the cord). Clean the appliance according to the manufacturer's directions only.

Be aware that a 'tingle' or slight shock is a serious warning! Do not use the appliance, until it has been checked by a licensed electrical contractor. If you do receive a shock ensure you seek medical attention immediately.

## Take care near water

Except for those designed for use around wet environments, electrical appliances used near water are a serious shock hazard when they get wet.

Your licensed electrical contractor can assist you to ensure all outdoor electrical connections are weatherproof.

## ... and hot surfaces

Don't drape leads over equipment or hot surfaces like motors or exhausts. The covering of the lead may melt and expose wires creating an electrocution risk.

## Safety switches save lives!

A safety switch can help guard against an electrical tragedy in your home. Safety switches are designed to cut the supply of electricity in a fraction of a second when a harmful level of electricity is detected leaking to earth.

Safety switches are available as permanently installed or portable units, which provide protection where permanent safety switch protection is not available.

A portable safety switch is ideal for use with portable electrical equipment such as power tools, and should be plugged into a power point ahead of the electrical equipment to be protected (including any extension leads).

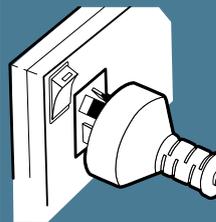
Safety switches can be easily identified—they are the ones with a 'test' or 'T' button.

Although safety switches are proven to prevent many serious electric shocks, they are not a substitute for proper electrical maintenance and safe practices.

## Making sure it works

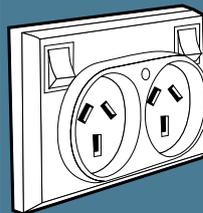
To make sure you get maximum protection from your safety switch, you should regularly test the switch according to the manufacturer's directions. A good rule of thumb is to test safety switches every three months. A great way to remember this is to do it whenever you receive an electricity bill.

To do this you only need to press the test button. If the switch turns off the power, it is working correctly. Then turn the power back on. If it doesn't turn the power off, have it replaced by a licensed electrical contractor as soon as possible.

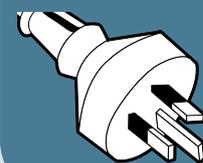


## Shock prevention from partially exposed pins

In high-risk areas (e.g. areas used by children), you should prevent shocks that may occur through contact with partially disconnected plugs. This can be achieved by using plugs with insulated pins or recessed type power points installed out of reach.



## Recessed power points



## Insulated pins

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