



Safe Use of Electrical Equipment

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Employers have the responsibility of ensuring that electrical equipment is safe for use. The following actions should be undertaken to ensure that equipment is safe:

- Perform a risk assessment to identify the hazards, the risks arising from those hazards and the control measures you should use.
- Check that the electrical equipment is suitable for its use.
- Check the electrical equipment is in good condition.
- Check that the equipment is suitable for the electrical supply with which it is going to be used and that the electrical supply is safe.
- Make sure the user is safe to use the equipment (assess where service users may need staff support).

Check that the electrical equipment is suitable

The equipment should be physically capable of doing the job and designed and constructed so that mechanical and electrical stresses do not cause the equipment to become unsafe.

If the environment is damp it may be better to use battery powered equipment or equipment that operates at a reduced voltage.

Check that the equipment is in good condition

Many faults with electrical equipment can be found during a simple visual inspection:

- Switch off and unplug the equipment before starting the checks.
- Check that the plug is not damaged and that the cable is properly secured with no internal wires visible.
- Check the electrical cable is not damaged and has not been repaired with insulating tape. Damaged cable should be replaced by a competent person.
- Check that the outer cover of the equipment is not damaged in a way that will give rise to electrical or mechanical hazards.
- Check for burn marks or staining that suggests the equipment is overheating.
- Position any trailing wires so that they are not a trip hazard and are less likely to get damaged.

If there is any concern about the safety of equipment it should not be used and a competent person should undertake a more thorough check.

Visual checks are undertaken every month within the supported living service during the health and safety checks by the Team Leaders at each property.

Check the electrical equipment is suitable for the electrical supply

Make sure that the electrical equipment is suitable for the electrical supply to which it is being connected. Check the voltage is correct and that the supply can deliver the current required by the equipment (the power requirements of the equipment will be shown on the rating plate).

Check the electrical supply is safe to use

Visual check of sockets will be carried out during the health and safety checks.

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