

Switch on a light. Turn on the TV. Turn up the heating. Charge your phone. Cook the dinner. Houses have more and more electrical appliances. But any electrical appliance connected to a power supply can cause a fire. That means there's more risk of a fire in your home.

> SWITCH ON TO SWITCHING OFF

Switch off and unplug appliances like TVs, washing machines and tumble dryers that aren't designed to be left switched on. It's especially important when you're sleeping, or out of the house.

Switching off at the socket and pulling the plug out is the only way to be sure no electricity is flowing through an appliance. Just using the socket switch isn't safe because the switch could be faulty.

As well as keeping you safer, switching off and unplugging things at the wall saves you electricity and money!

Appliances like fridge-freezers, videos with timers and cordless phones are designed to be left on.

> REMEMBER

- Always use the right fuse
- Never overload sockets
- Never run electrical cables under carpets
- Never repair or rejoin cables with insulating tape – always replace the whole cable
- Use electric blankets safely
- Switch on to switching off

Visit www.firescotland.gov.uk for practical fire safety advice. Or talk to your local firefighters. You'll find contact details on the website, in your local library and in the phone book.

If you would like a copy of this document in a different format or a version in another language, please contact **0800 0731 999**.

TO BOOK A FREE HOME FIRE SAFETY VISIT
Call **0800 0731 999** Text 'FIRE' to 80800
or visit www.firescotland.gov.uk



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Fact.

Some of the **most common** causes of **fires** in the **home** are the misuse of electrical equipment, faulty leads and appliances.



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Domestic appliances including televisions, computers, music systems, hair straighteners, dish washers, tumble driers, cooking appliances and washing machines are a common source of ignition.

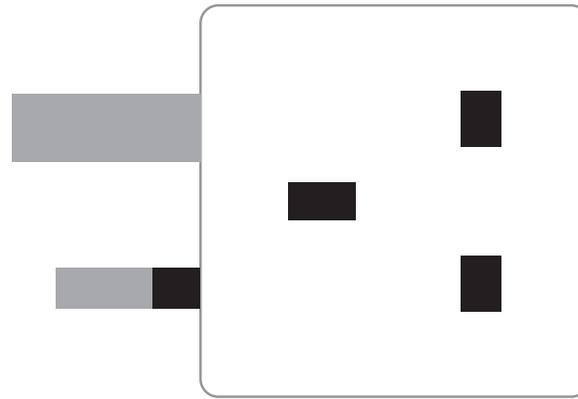
> WHY DOES USING THE RIGHT FUSE MATTER?

The fuse in a plug is a safety device that will 'blow' if an electrical appliance develops a fault. It cuts off the electricity to stop the appliance from overheating and causing a fire. If you fit the wrong fuse, it won't 'blow'. Check the manufacturer's instructions to make sure all your appliances are fitted with the correct fuse. As a general guide to fuses:

3 AMP FUSE
lamps/bed lights
televisions/radios
electric blankets
hi-fi/dvd players
docking stations
clocks/computers
games consoles

13 AMP FUSE
refrigerators
heaters
kettles/toasters
washing machines/dryers
irons
hair straighteners

* These are guidelines only. Check the manufacturer's instructions.



> WHAT'S WRONG WITH USING ADAPTORS?

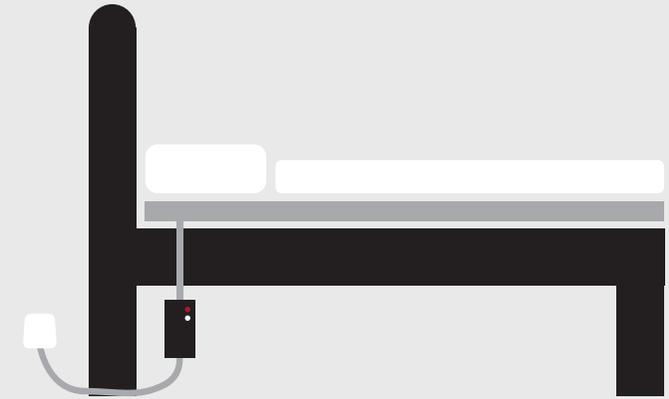
When you use them safely, adaptors let you plug more than one appliance into an electrical socket. But if you overload the adaptor it can cause a fire. Rather than using a block adaptor, consider using a multi-socket adaptor with surge protection.

Always make sure your adaptor is fitted with a fuse and has a kite mark from Intertek British Electrotechnical Approvals Board (Intertek BEAB).

Never use more than one adaptor in each socket.

Appliances connected to the adaptor should never use more than 13 amps of electricity in total.

Check appliance handbooks for details.



> KEEPING YOUR ELECTRIC BLANKET SAFE

Blankets don't last forever. After the guarantee runs out – usually after 3 years – you should have the blanket tested and serviced regularly by the manufacturer. But check the cost. You may find it cheaper to buy a new blanket. Your new blanket should be approved by Intertek BEAB or marked BSEN60335-2-17:2002+A1,A2. It's best if it's fitted with an overheat protection safety system.

Use your blanket safely:

- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions
- Tie under-blankets securely to the bed
- Check the blanket, plug and flex regularly for damage (e.g. fraying fabric, scorch marks, exposed wires). If you're in any doubt, don't use the blanket
- Never leave an electric blanket switched on when you're in bed unless it's marked 'suitable for all night use'
- Store electric blankets safely – roll them, don't fold them