

Home Electrical Safety Checklist

NICEIC APPROVED

Complete this annual check to keep your home safe, compliant and protected

Fully Insured | 24/7 Emergency

Most electrical faults develop silently over months or years. This checklist helps you spot early warning signs before they become expensive - or dangerous. Work through each section, ticking every box as you go. Flag any warning item and contact a qualified electrician straight away.

HOW TO USE:

Tick each box with a pen as you check it. Empty box = action needed. PRO = qualified electrician only.

01

Fuse Box & RCD Checks

Your consumer unit is the heart of your electrical system

- Is your fuse box a modern consumer unit with circuit breakers?
- Does it have Residual Current Device (RCD) protection on all circuits?
- Test your RCD monthly - press the test button, it should trip instantly.
- No signs of scorching, burning smell, or discolouration around the unit?
- Is the fuse box easily accessible and not blocked by storage?

! Old-style rewirable fuse boxes with no RCD protection are a serious fire risk. Upgrade immediately.

02

Sockets & Switches

Check every room systematically - do not skip any

- No cracked, loose, or discoloured socket faceplates anywhere in the home?
- Sockets are not warm or hot to the touch when nothing is plugged in?
- No visible scorch marks or signs of burning around any socket?
- Light switches operate cleanly with no flickering, sparking, or buzzing?
- Extension leads are not daisy-chained (plugged into each other)?

! Warm or discoloured sockets indicate dangerous loose connections. Do not use - call an electrician.

03

Outdoor Weatherproofing

Water and electricity are a fatal combination

- All outdoor sockets have weatherproof covers rated IP44 or above?
- Outdoor cables are protected in conduit and not lying on the ground?
- Outdoor lights and fittings are fully sealed with no cracked housings?
- Garden power tools are plugged into a socket with RCD protection?

! Never use indoor extension leads outdoors. Always use RCD-protected outdoor sockets.

04

Extension Lead Safety

The most overlooked hazard in UK homes

- Extension leads are not hidden under rugs or carpets where heat builds?
- Each lead is rated for the total wattage of all connected appliances?
- No extension lead used as a permanent solution - add a new socket instead.
- Coiled extension leads are fully uncoiled before use to prevent overheating?

! Overloaded extension leads cause over 4,000 UK house fires every year.

05

Smoke & Carbon Monoxide Alarms

Your first line of defence - check these every month

- Smoke alarm fitted on every floor including landing and hallway?
- Alarms tested monthly - press the test button until it sounds?
- Alarms replaced every 10 years (check manufacture date on rear of unit)?
- Carbon monoxide detector in any room with a gas appliance or boiler?
- Alarms interconnected where possible so one triggers all?

! Smoke alarms reduce your risk of dying in a house fire by over 50%. Test every month.

06

Signs of Overloading

Electrical overloading is invisible until it is too late






- Lights do not dim or flicker when appliances are switched on?
- Circuit breakers do not trip regularly without an obvious cause?
- No burning plastic smell anywhere in the home, even occasionally?
- No buzzing or crackling sounds from walls, sockets, or the fuse box?

! Frequent tripping or flickering lights are signs of overloaded circuits. Get checked urgently.

07

When to Call a Professional

By law, this work must be carried out by a qualified electrician

-  Any work involving your consumer unit, fuse box, or main supply cable.
-  Adding new circuits, sockets, or lighting points anywhere in the property.
-  Any electrical work in bathrooms, kitchens, or outdoor areas.
-  Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) - required every 5 years for rentals.
-  Any fault you cannot clearly identify. When in doubt, always call out.

Understanding Your Results

All 30 boxes ticked: Your home is in excellent shape. Book an EICR every 5 years to stay compliant.

Any boxes unticked: Action those items as a priority. Most are quick, low-cost fixes.

Any warning items flagged: Call a qualified electrician today. These are active safety risks.