

## Electrical Safety

### The Statistics

- From 1990 to 1995, 97 children less than 15 years of age were hospitalised and 1 died in WA as a result of electricity related injuries.
- Children 10 - 14 years of age are most frequently at risk through their increased use of electrical items.
- 54% of cases required significant treatment or hospital admission.
- Most injuries are caused from general appliances, frayed electrical cords and overhead power lines.

### Maintenance and repair

- Have appliances checked regularly.
- Always use a licensed electrician for repairs.
- Replace frayed cords or broken power points. An exposed wire can cause fire. Any person touching the wire will be electrocuted.

### First Aid for Electric Shock

1. Get help.
2. Turn off power point before touching the child. If this is not possible, push the child away from the power source with a broom handle or another non-conducting object.
3. If the child is unconscious, not breathing and has no heartbeat, start resuscitation until an ambulance or help arrives.

### Hints for around the home

- Avoid 'piggy-backing' double adaptors and avoid overloading other plugs.
- Always switch appliances off at the wall and remove the electrical plug before cleaning.



- **Water and electricity don't mix:** Never keep portable heaters or other electrical appliances in the bathroom.
- Ensure you have dry hands before touching electrical appliances or switches.
- Wear dry rubber-soled shoes when work areas are wet and electrical appliances are being used. E.g. the laundry.

- Keep appliances away from pools. E.g. radios, CD players etc.
- Avoid running extension cords across wet grass, pool areas, and wet floors or under mats and carpets.
- Beware - A light socket is still live if the globe is removed and the switch is left on.



### Safety tips

- Where possible, choose products that comply with the Australian Standards.
- Under the Electrical Licensing Regulations (1991) all new homes from 1992 will have electrical safety switches installed.
- Homes older than 1992 are recommended to install safety switches to prevent electrocution in the household.
- Install safety switches, (also called Residual Current Devices - RCDs or Earth Leakage Circuit Breakers).
- Install safety plugs.

### Safety Products available

1. Safety plugs - to prevent children playing and poking objects into unused power points.
2. Safety switches (RCD's) - these devices are installed by an electrician either in your main power box, or at power points. They detect when a current leaks through a fault and cuts off power supply to prevent electrocution

**These devices are an addition to safety and NOT substitutes for the safe use and repair of equipment**

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For more information

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