

Electrical Consumer Units

What You Need to Know

From 1st January 2016, all consumer units installed or replaced in domestic properties are required to be made of or be enclosed by a non-combustible material, typically a ferrous metal* such as steel.

Existing plastic consumer units can be retained for alterations and additions, unless they show signs of thermal damage or the manufacturer's design has been altered.

This does not mean your existing plastic consumer unit is necessarily unsafe but it does mean if you are having it replaced, it will need replacing by a non-combustible one.



Plastic consumer unit



Non combustibile consumer unit enclosure



NAPIT are committed to high standards of safety in the home. We ensure our registered installers meet strict entry requirements and are regularly assessed to ensure their ongoing competence.

For more information on consumer units and complying with the new regulations, speak to your local NAPIT Registered Installer who is:

- Able to assess your existing consumer unit by working safely and to legally required standards
- Able to offer you reputable advice keeping to the very latest health and safety regulations
- Able to provide you with compliance certificates on any work carried out, which you may need should you come to sell or rent your home
- And most importantly... keep you and your family safe from any electrical dangers in your home



Why have these changes been made?

This is due to an amendment to the 17th Edition Wiring Regulations (BS7671), the national standard for electrical installation and the safety of electrical wiring in buildings. The changes to the regulations only apply to new consumer unit installations and replacements.

The new regulations have been introduced due to safety concerns raised by the UK Fire Services after an increased number of fires involving consumer units.

What does this mean for you?

The new regulations give you the choice of two options with regards to the installation or replacement of consumer units:

1. Using a consumer unit made from a non-combustible material, Ferrous metal* such as steel
2. Using a consumer unit enclosed within a cabinet or enclosure made from non-combustible material, Ferrous metal* such as steel.

* Ferrous Metal e.g. steel, is deemed to be an example of a non-combustible material.

You can search
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in your area by visiting



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