

# ***YOUR GUIDE TO ELECTRICAL WORK IN THE KITCHEN***



***THE POWER TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER***



## ***MORE THAN HALF OF ALL ACCIDENTAL HOUSE FIRES START IN THE KITCHEN.***

The mixture of water, hot surfaces, flexible cables and electricity can be very dangerous.

In 2013/14 cooking appliances were the source of ignition in more than half of accidental fires in homes throughout the UK.

(SOURCE: DCLG; Fire Statistics, Great Britain April 2013-March 2014).

### **Comply with building regulations**

When it comes to electrical installations, kitchens are considered a high risk location.

A straightforward way of meeting the requirements is to use a contractor who is registered with a Competent Person Scheme such as NICEIC or ELECSA. They can self-certify the work and notify the local building control department on your behalf.

### **What type of work is notifiable?**

Under the 2013 Edition of Part P, electrical work undertaken in kitchens (such as adding a new socket, electric floor heating, extra low voltage (ELV) lighting and central heating controls) are no longer notifiable unless a new circuit is required.

Work in a kitchen that remains notifiable includes the installation of a new circuit.



### **Sockets and Switches**

Electrical sockets or switches should be fitted at a safe distance (it is recommended at least 30cm horizontally) from a sink to avoid the chance of water coming into contact with electricity.

Sockets should also be easily accessible. If appliances such as fridges, dishwashers and washing machines are fitted under worktops, getting to sockets may be difficult. Ideally, these appliances should be controlled by a switched fuse connection unit mounted above the worktop where you can reach it easily.

All new sockets in a house require protection by an RCD (Residual Current Device).

An RCD is a sensitive safety device that switches off electricity automatically if there is a fault. It is a life-saving device designed to protect against the risks of electrocution and fire caused by earth faults.

### Simple tips for kitchen safety:

- Never use switches or any electrical equipment when your hands are wet
- Don't wrap flexible cables around any equipment when it is still warm
- Check that flexible leads and appliances such as kettles and toasters are in good condition
- Don't try to repair an appliance when it is still plugged in
- Never try to get toast that is stuck out of a toaster while it is plugged in, and especially not with a metal knife as there are often live parts inside
- Make sure you thoroughly clean your oven and grill – a build-up of fat and grease is a major cause of fires
- Check your sockets are not overloaded with too many electrical appliances as this can lead to overheating
- Avoid storing objects on top of appliances like the microwave, which can block ventilation
- Defrost your fridge and freezer at least once a year to ensure these appliances continue to work properly





### **I want to fit a new kitchen. What do I need to know?**

Certain electrical work carried out in the kitchen has to be notified to the local building control department so that it meets the appropriate safety standards.

Speak to the kitchen fitter or electrician before any work to upgrade your kitchen commences. Find out if the work complies with Part P of the building regulations and that the appropriate notification and certification will be taken care of once the work is completed.

A straightforward way of meeting the requirements is to use an NICEIC or ELECSA registered contractor. They can self-certify the work and notify the local building control department on your behalf.

### **How do I know if my kitchen is safe for use?**

If an appliance keeps tripping or there is noticeable damage to sockets, plugs, wiring or fittings then it could be a sign that your electrics need checking. If you have any concerns regarding the electrics in your home then you should look to call a registered electrician.

### **How can I get my kitchen checked for electrical safety?**

You should contact your local NICEIC or ELECSA registered contractor and ask them to carry out an electrical inspection (sometimes known as a periodic inspection) of the property. Much like an MOT, this is an inspection of the current condition of an electrical installation in your home. On completion of the inspection, you will receive an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) detailing any damage, deterioration, defects, dangerous conditions and anything not in line with the present-day safety standard which might give rise to danger.

### **How often should this check be carried out?**

There is no regulation regarding how often an electrical inspection should be carried out. However, NICEIC and ELECSA recommend that an EICR is carried out every ten years in a privately owned home. For rented properties, this should be every five years or when there is a change of occupancy.

### **Where can I find an NICEIC or ELECSA registered electrician?**

You can search for a registered electrical contractor in your area by simply visiting [niceic.com](http://niceic.com) or [elecsa.co.uk](http://elecsa.co.uk) and typing in your postcode. We would recommend getting quotes from at least 3 different firms before agreeing to carry out any work.

### **Why use an NICEIC or ELECSA registered contractor?**

Choosing an NICEIC or ELECSA registered contractor is a householder's best way to ensure a safe job. Electricians registered with NICEIC and ELECSA are assessed on a regular basis to ensure high standards and their work is checked against the IET Wiring Regulations as well as other standards.

### **What happens if something goes wrong?**



All NICEIC and ELECSA registered businesses are covered by the Platinum Promise – a promise that protects you against all non-compliant installation work.

Should any work carried out by one of our contractors be found not to comply with the Building Regulations or relevant installation standards, we can instruct the contractor to go back and carry out the work to the required standard.

If the contractor is no longer in business or disputes the matter we will have the work rectified by another registered contractor at no extra cost.

The Platinum promise is valid for up to six years from the date of the completion of the original work and covers work up to a maximum of £25,000 for any one installation.

**TO FIND A REGISTERED ELECTRICIAN IN YOUR AREA  
VISIT [NICEIC.COM](http://NICEIC.COM) OR [ELECSA.CO.UK](http://ELECSA.CO.UK) OR CALL **0333 015 6625****

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