

CLEMS ELECTRICAL ADVERTISEMENT

DO WE NEED SAFETY SWITCHES OR NOT?

Hello fellow Queenslanders, my name is Clem Capdevila. Over the past few months, I have been publishing advertisements about electrical safety in this paper and social media. I would like to express my sincere gratitude for your tremendous support, for an electrically safe State for all of us to enjoy. Today, I am going to disclose the inconsistencies present in today's electrical industry, relating specifically to the electrical safety in our Queensland homes. There needs to be a consistency for all of us to be equal. Common questions people frequently ask me include. What is a safety switch? What do we need to do to be electrically safe? Are we electrically safe without Safety Switches? Why when I build a new home, I need to install safety switches on all circuits, and my Parents home does not need any? Why does the law enforce when I buy a home, there needs to be at least 1 safety switch on the power points? - Where can I get more information? How do I know if my home is electrically safe? These are some of the questions that most people face unanswered when it comes to the topic of electrical safety in Queensland.

Here are some known facts about the current electrical system in Queensland with my comments added. 1. Old homes with the same homeowner for 40 years or more, if they do not have safety switches, they do not need to install safety switches. I argue with authorities on this topic and they keep telling me, if it has been safe for 40 years, why would it not be safe now. OK! Let us keep that in our memory

bank for the moment.

2. New homes built after June 2018 need to have safety switches on all circuits. Why? If an old home is safe without them, so should a new home, right? 3. The electrical industry has a Licencing Board; part of its role is to prosecute electricians for doing the wrong thing. To keep electricians on their toes, frequent emails are sent to us with brief details about the case and fine. A recent case was about an electrician who disconnected a safety switch on a property. He was fined and had his licence suspended. The reason for the fine and suspension ruled that the electrician, by disconnecting the safety switch, placed the homeowner at the risk of electric shock and property fire. I think you will agree with me here, there might be some seriousness relating to the protection of a safety switch. 4. In the Queensland Landlords Webinar conducted by the Electrical Safety Office on the 26th of August. They Announced to ensure a landlord is complying with providing electrical safety to its tenants, it must 1. Provide safety switches on all circuits. 2. Check all appliances to make sure they are safe 3. To have periodic inspections to ensure they stay safe. This will prevent a landlord from potentially going to jail. Electrical safety seems to be extremely serious in this case, and it seems to be more than just safety switches. For more information visit www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au/electrical-safety-home/electrical-safety-rental-properties. 5. Under the law in Queensland, when purchasing a property, a safety switch

for the power points must be installed. What about the other circuits? Do they need protecting? If so, why is it not in the law to protect us properly? If you are thinking what I am thinking, this does not make sense. Here is the real case based on the previous information. 1. When visiting your parents' home (if they have lived there for over 40 years and have no safety switches), your parents and you, are at risk of receiving an electric shock. 2. When buying a home, only 1 safety switch for the power points is required by law. Leaving the risk of electric shock and fire from all the other circuits. 3. When building a new home, safety switches on all circuits is mandatory. This is for the prevention of electric shock and fire from all circuits. 4. When renting a property, ensure it is electrically safe by installing safety switches on all circuits, check appliances for safety and conduct periodic testing to ensure a continued level of electrical safety is maintained throughout the tenancy. It seems, regardless of which stage (40+years, buying home, building home or renting), to ensure the electrical safety, there needs to be safety switches on all circuits combined with checking all appliances and periodic testing. An interesting point is that In Victoria, England, and Wales, already have such programs in place, but they are not mandatory, therefore, continuing to leave their citizens and visitors at risk of electric shock and property fire. I say we work together as a Queensland force and show them how it is done. Let us be the example to the world and be proud of our Beautiful State. Queens-

landers can access good information about electrical safety by visiting: www.electricalsafety.qld.gov.au/. The only problem is that it refers to the laws currently available, leaving many homeowners and tenants at the risk of electric shock and fire. What we need is a united equal consensus on what we all need to do to be electrically safe, so Queenslanders can enjoy our lives without the worry of electrical hazards.

I am working relentlessly for Queenslanders and I am excited to announce that at this present moment, there is work taking place with the combined force of varied industry bodies, for a 6-stage plan to make electrical safety a reality for all Queenslanders. But as everybody knows, some actions take time. I am committing myself to work towards achieving my goal for all Queenslanders to be electrically safe. For now, allow me to give you my advice. All you need to do is follow 4 simple steps. Step 1. Check if mum and dad have safety switches on all circuits, if they do not, call an electrician to install them. Step 2. Do the same for your home. Step 3. Set up with your electrician a periodic home testing schedule for You, Mum and Dad. Step 4. Tell 3 other people about the 4-step plan.

If we all follow these 4 steps, we will be the safest electrical state in the world.

If you would like to assist in the effort to improve electrical safety in Queensland, please contact me. Clem Capdevila
clem@es1.com.au or write to
PO BOX 1223, Oxley Qld 4075

HOW TO CHECK IF I HAVE A SAFETY SWITCH

A safety switch has a TEST BUTTON that you can PRESS IN. If you are unsure, call an electrician to check it for you. This service should be FREE



WHAT IS A SAFETY SWITCH - HOW DOES IT WORK

A safety switch is a device connected to your switchboard. If an electrical hazard occurs, it will protect humans and livestock against an electric shock and prevent property fires

4 Simple steps to ensure electrical safety for all Queenslanders TODAY

Step 1. Check if Mum and Dad have safety switches on all circuits, if they do not, call an electrician to install them.

Step 2. Do the same for your home

Step 3. Set up with your electrician a periodic home testing schedule for You, Mum and Dad

Step 4. Tell 3 other people about the 4 steps

'If we all work together, we can all have an electrical safe Queensland to enjoy - Clem Capdevila'



CLEM

LICENCE 85996



CLEMS ELECTRICAL
AFFORDABLE GOLD MASTER ELECTRICIANS



ELECTRICAL



DATA



AIRCON



SOLAR



HOT WATER

CLEMSELECTRICAL.COM.AU 0488 78 13 78

"Experience TRUE VALUE with Clems Electrical"



**GOLD
MASTER
ELECTRICIAN**