

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY

### The Statistics

- Every year, throughout Australia approximately 100 children under 15 years of age are hospitalised and at least 1 dies 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.
- Over 50% 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

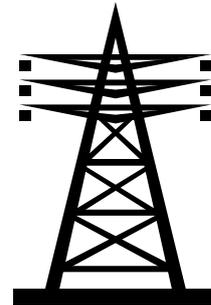
- Have appliances checked regularly.
- Always use a licensed electrician for repairs.
- Replace frayed cords or broken power points. An exposed wire can cause fire. Any person touching the wire will be electrocuted.

### 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.
- Never stick any metal objects into any electrical appliance eg the toaster, hair dryer, kettle, radiator.
- Have an electrician install an approved safety switch.

### Hints for outside the home

- Do not climb power poles or towers holding high voltage power lines.



- Only fly kites well way from power lines and high voltage power lines. Do not attempt to retrieve kites or other toys that are entangled in power lines.



- Ensure favourite climbing trees and cubby houses are not directly under power lines or reachable once in the tree or cubby house.
- Keep away from and do not climb into electrical sub-stations or on to transformers.

**child safety is no accident**

## 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.
- Electrical tools, extension cords and equipment should be stored in a locked garden shed or a lockable cupboard



### 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.

## 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**



**Kidsafe Tasmania**  
PO Box 19 Claremont 7011  
Ph: 0417 381 721  
tas@kidsafe.com.au

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