



## Question: How can I work safely with electricity in the home and workplace?

**Answer:** The following tips give advice on how to safely use and control electricity and electrical appliances whilst installing CCTV around the home and workplace.

A lot of us take electricity for granted and don't often think about the real dangers present.

If you ever have any doubts regarding electrical appliances, circuits or fittings contact a qualified electrician. **Do not** attempt to undertake any work yourself if you are in any way unsure as to what you are doing.

If you do carry out electrical repairs yourself, **always turn the electrics off at the mains before you start.**



### Power Trips

Most electrical circuits are fitted with a circuit breaker fuse system. If there is a problem, a switch will trip shutting off power to part or all of the circuit.

The trip switch will be on or near to your fuse box which is always close to your electricity meter. It is highly recommended that you locate your trip switch and fuse box when you move into a new property. In doing so you will know where your trip switch is if an emergency does occur.

All the switches relate to different parts of the circuit and may be labelled accordingly. e.g. downstairs sockets, upstairs lights, etc.

There are a number of reasons as to why a switch may trip including the following:

- The circuit has been overloaded. This happens when too many electrical appliances are used at the same time.
- An appliance is faulty.
- Over filled kettle.
- Damaged leads or faulty connections.
- Faulty immersion heater.

If a switch is tripped as a result of one of the above you should unplug all appliances which were being used at the time, flip the switch back on, then plug the appliances in again one by one. If the switch trips again when you plug a particular item in you know that that is the faulty item.

This CCTV installation tip is aimed at helping you to install CCTV equipment. If you are looking for answers on "how to fit CCTV" or perhaps "how to network a DVR or NVR" or even "how to get CCTV on your mobile phone" why not check out our full range of CCTV installation tips at: [www.systemq.com](http://www.systemq.com)

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## If The Switch Is Off

If the trip switch is off you can simply flick it back on. This should hopefully restore power.

If it stays on but you still have no electricity ensure that you haven't turned off the main fusebox by mistake.

If the switch trips as soon as you flick it on then you may have a problem with your wiring and you should contact a qualified electrician.

If your trip switch and fuse box are separate, turn off your fuse box and flick the trip switch back on. If it trips as soon as you turn it on then the fault lies with either trip switch or fuse box. Again you should contact a qualified electrician.



## If The Switch Is On

If the switch is still on try turning it off and back on again. Sometimes inside can trip but not move the switch itself. If this does not restore power push the 'Push To Test' (Reset) button. If the switch now trips there may be a problem with your wiring or an appliance. You will need to call a qualified electrician to come and resolve the problem.

If all switches are on and the 'Push To Test' button doesn't trip any of them it means there is no electricity being supplied to the property. In this case you will need to call your electricity supplier's emergency contact number.

## Power Cuts

In the event of a power cut you should first check your trip switch. If there appears to be no fault here you know your property is definitely not receiving any electrical supply.

Check whether your neighbours appear to have lost power as well. You will then need to call your electricity supplier. They will ask you a series of questions such as name, address, have your neighbours lost power, have you checked your trip switch, etc.

Your supplier may already be aware of the fault and upon ringing you may hear a recorded message informing you that they are aware. If you know the reasons behind the power cut you should let your supplier know as soon as possible. The quicker you let them know the faster they can resolve the problem.

There are sometimes planned cuts so that important maintenance work can be carried out. If there are planned cuts you should be informed before hand by either your supplier or the national grid.



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## Top Tips For Dealing With Power Cuts

- Always have a supply of candles or torches to use as emergency lighting.
- Put on warm clothing and try to stay in one room.
- Leave one light switched on. This way you will know when the power is restored.
- Unplug electrical appliances and try to keep the fridge and freezer doors closed. Remember to check food hasn't thawed when the power is restored.

## Appliances

Top tips for safely using and maintaining appliances.

- Check for frayed or damaged cables before using appliances. If cables do become damaged have them replaced before using.
- Use surge protectors to prevent damage to your appliances caused by surges in electricity.
- Never attempt to remove a plug from the socket by pulling the cord. This can very easily damage the cable.
- Only use appliances which are CE approved.
- Do not use electrical equipment in wet environments. e.g. in the bathroom or outside when it's raining.
- If an electrical appliance stops working check the fuse hasn't blown in the plug.



## Lighting

Below are just a few tips on how to keep your house safely lit.

- Don't overload light fixtures by fitting bulbs of a higher wattage.
- If your lights flicker on a regular basis you may have loose wiring or too much power may be being drawn on the circuit. Call a qualified electrician to come and fix the problem.



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