

When doing work on wiring in your home, you must:

- ⊙ Make sure the power is switched off **before you start**.
- ⊙ Do not work in any enclosure where conductors or terminals are live or could become live.
- ⊙ Ensure that if you install, extend or alter cables, you do not connect your work to the electricity supply yourself. The finished job must be checked and tested by a licensed electrical inspector. If it complies with safety requirements, the inspector will connect it, test it, and issue you with a "Certificate of Compliance".
- ⊙ Never do any work on a switchboard apart from replacing fuse wire or fuse cartridges.

Important: Employers, employees, landlords, tenants and school staff (including caretakers) cannot carry out electrical work in their work place or any rented property unless they are registered electrical workers and hold current practising licences.

What if something goes wrong?

If you are unsure about anything or think you might have made a mistake, make sure the main switch is off, and call a licensed electrician to check your work and correct it if necessary. If you do work that is unsafe you could seriously injure yourself or a member of your family or cause an electrically initiated fire. Furthermore you could be prosecuted and fined, if you commit an offence and fail to comply with the electricity legislation.

How can I learn more about doing my own electrical work?

Training providers like institutes of technology and polytechnics sometimes run courses for people who want to do their own electrical work. These courses are well worth attending. Also, some licensed electrical workers will give advice if you ask.

How can I find out more about the law?

The Electricity Act and Regulations are available on the Energy Safety's website www.energysafety.govt.nz, in your local library or from your local Bennetts Government Bookshop.

You can also contact Energy Safety at:

Email info@energysafety.govt.nz
Phone 0508 377 463
Fax 0508 723 336
PO Box 1473
Wellington 6140

To report electrical accidents directly into the Energy Safety database go to www.energysafety.govt.nz/onlineforms/notification or freephone 0800 10 44 77.

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New Zealand Government

A Guide to Doing your own Electrical Work Safely and Legally



As a member of the public, the law allows you to carry out some of your own electrical work.

But electrical work can be unsafe and illegal if it is not done properly. Unsafe work leads to accidents and, in some cases, fatalities.

Never do any electrical work unless you are sure you have the appropriate skills and knowledge. Do not be the cause of an accident to yourself or someone you care about!

For more detail on how you can go about doing your own electrical work safely and legally, please follow NZECP 50: 2004 New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Repair and Maintenance of Domestic Electrical Appliances by the Owner of the Appliance and NZECP 51: 2004 New Zealand Electrical Code of Practice for Homeowner/ Occupier's Electrical Wiring Work in Domestic Installations.

NZECP:50 2004 and NZECP:51 2004 are available on the Energy Safety's website www.energysafety.govt.nz.

This pamphlet is intended as a guide only, advising the minimum legal safety requirements for doing your own electrical work safely and legally. Neither this pamphlet nor the Electrical Codes of Practice are do-it yourself manuals. Knowledge and skill are essential. If in doubt, use a licensed electrical worker.

What electrical work can I do?

- Ⓢ You can fit plugs, cord extension sockets or appliance connectors to a flexible cord. You can also replace fuse wires and fuse cartridges. However, you cannot accept payment or reward for this work.

You can repair an appliance, but...

- Ⓢ You, or a close relative, must own it.
- Ⓢ It must be for use by you or a close relative.
- Ⓢ It must **not** be for commercial or industrial use.



*Remember:
Before you start work, make sure the appliance is unplugged from the electricity supply. It is dangerous to work on it if it is connected. If the appliance is permanently connected to an*

electricity supply, then ensure the mains power is switched off.

If replacing fuse wires and fuse cartridges...

- Ⓢ Use fuse wire and cartridges of the correct rating. Do not be tempted to fit a larger size fuse wire.

Important: Energy Safety recommends replacing wired fuses on older switchboards with circuit breakers. Plug-in circuit breakers fit many existing fuse bases and give better protection from faults.

You can do some work on your home's wiring, but...

- Ⓢ You must own **and** live in the property you are working on.

The following are the main electrical repairs you can do yourself at your home...

For a full list of the electrical repairs you can do on your home, refer to regulation 47 of the Electricity Regulations 1997:

1. Replace switches; socket outlets, lamp holders, ceiling roses, water heater switches, thermostats and elements.
2. Repair light fittings.
3. Move, repair or replace flexible cords that are connected to permanently connected outlets or ceiling roses.
4. Disconnect and reconnect permanently wired appliances.
5. Move switches, sockets and lighting outlets, but only if they are wired with tough plastic sheathed cables.
6. Install, extend, or alter any cables, except the main cables that come from the street to your switchboard.



Make sure the power is switched off before you start