

Electrical Safety Tips for the Family: In the Garden

- Always read the manufacturer's instructions before you use appliances.
- Never use electrical equipment when it's raining. If it starts to rain once you have started, switch off the socket, remove the plug and put the equipment under cover.
- Wear strong flat-heeled shoes, never go bare foot or wear open sandals when strimming or cutting grass – you can be seriously injured if you are struck by the blades.
- Make sure pets and children are properly supervised and never allow them to distract you if you're using electrical equipment – secure any pets and make sure children are clear of your work area to prevent injury.
- Use a protective switch with electrical gardening equipment, such as a residual current device (RCD) – these protective devices will trip the supply to your equipment if the cable is cut, damaged or develops a fault.
- An extension cable plugged into your home should be protected by an RCD. Outside sockets should be waterproof and also protected by an RCD.
- Before you switch on check appliances to be used including flexes, extension cables, plugs and sockets – look for signs of damage.
- When using a lawnmower keep the flex behind you by trailing it over your shoulder or hold a short loop of the flex in one hand.
- Always cut away from the flex, not towards it. Be careful with hover mowers, they can drift over the flex and your foot.
- When using hedge trimmers keep clear of the flex and keep both hands on the handles, pass the flex over your shoulder and keep it behind you at all times.
- Have enough flex to allow you to move freely.