

Electrical Safety Tips for the Family: Plugs, Fuses, Flexes & Cables

- When you buy a plug or appliance look for the ASTA (Association of Short Circuit Testing Authorities) and BS1363A safety marks. These marks guarantee that the plug has been independently tested and designed for safety.
- Never use plugs that are cracked, damaged or have had any type of temporary repair carried out.
- Make sure plugs are wired correctly – Blue neutral, Brown live (fuse), Green/Yellow earth.
- Fuses are fitted to plugs as a safety device; the fuse size depends on the type of electrical appliance – fuses are not designed to protect you, only the equipment.
- Most appliances up to 720 watts require a 3 amp fuse, such as table lamps, radios, audio and hi-fi appliances. Appliances over 720 watts require 13 amp fuses, such as irons, electric fires, tumble dryers. To make sure you use the correct fuse, always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Faulty appliances should be switched off, fuses removed and have their plugs removed or cut off. Remove any damaged or faulty moulded plugs and dispose of safely.
- Never use appliances that have frayed, damaged, and repaired flexes or cables. Always check for damage before use.
- Never put a flex under a carpet or staple to the skirting board or wall – this type of cable is not suitable for this and will be easily damaged.
- Never use a wet flex or plugs, which have fallen into water. Dry off the plug or flex and leave until thoroughly dried through. Never let a flex touch an appliance that generates heat, such as fires and cookers.
- If in doubt ask!