

- Do not remove sealed plugs from new appliances.
- Do not paint over sockets or switches
- If a socket or switch plate is cracked please report it
- NEVER carry out DIY electrical work. All new electrical work is to be carried out by a registered qualified electrician. Obtain written permission before carrying out any work.
- When using portable appliances or tools outside, make sure you use a Residual Circuit Breaker device.
- Never cover an electrical fitting (storage heaters, central heating pumps, immersion heaters, extension leads etc) with clothing or linen as this can be very dangerous as the fitting can overheat.

## Fire Safety

### SMOKE DETECTORS

Smoke detectors fitted by Broxtowe are either mains operated with a back up battery or have a 10 year lithium battery. The detector will bleep when the battery needs replacing. The unit is a sealed unit, so you will need to contact Housing Repairs if this happens, to report the fault.

Smoke detectors are fitted with a TEST button to ensure correct operation. The sounder will emit a loud wailing tone, which should cease after the button has been released. The detector should be tested weekly.

If the alarm sounds for no obvious reason, the detector may need cleaning. A build up of dust sometimes inadvertently sets detectors off. A hair dryer (set on cold) and vacuum cleaner can be used to either blow dust out of the detector or remove dust from it.

### Contact us:

Tel: 0115 917 7777

E-mail: [housingrepairs@broxtowe.gov.uk](mailto:housingrepairs@broxtowe.gov.uk)

Website: [www.broxtowe.gov.uk/repairs](http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/repairs)

Or write to us at the address below

**If you need this leaflet in other formats or languages, contact us on 0115 917 7777**



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**This document is available in large print upon request**

Other leaflets you may find helpful:  
 Night Storage Heater  
 Emergency -Out Of Hours Repairs  
 What Repairs Am I Responsible For?

Broxtowe Borough Council - Housing Repairs  
 'getting it right first time'

**Broxtowe Borough Council**  
 Housing Repairs, Council Offices,  
 Foster Avenue, Beeston, Nottingham, NG9 1AB



**Broxtowe  
 Borough  
 COUNCIL**

# Electrical Safety Fault Finding & FIRE SAFETY

This guide will provide you with information that will allow you to diagnose electrical faults, accurately describe a problem when reporting it and provide guidance on fire safety issues.



*getting it right first time*

[www.broxtowe.gov.uk](http://www.broxtowe.gov.uk)

Remember, electricity is perfectly safe, as long as you take care and apply common sense when using it. However, electricity can kill. If you are in any doubt, switch off the supply to the item in question and contact Housing Repairs on 0115 917 7777.

## ELECTRIC METER

All properties have either a pre-paid meter or card meter. The meter is not the Council's responsibility. Faulty meters and supplies to the meter are to be reported to Western Power on 0800 678 3105 or visit their website: [www.westernpower.co.uk](http://www.westernpower.co.uk). The Council is responsible for the supply from the meter.

## CONSUMER UNITS AND RESETTING FUSES

The consumer unit is usually fitted with either MCB's (miniature circuit breakers) or rewirable fuses.

Fuses or MCB's are usually colour coded to show the circuit they are protecting. They may also be labeled.

CIRCUIT	FUSE RATING	COLOUR*
Lighting	5/6 amps	White
Immersion heater	15/16 amps	Blue
Power shower	32/45 amps	Green
Cooker	30/32 amps	Red
Power Sockets	30/32 amps	Red

\* only applicable to rewirable fuses.

There may be more than one circuit for lighting and general power.

Larger appliances such as cookers, boilers and washing machines sometimes have a double pole switch which allows the supply to be isolated without moving the appliance or going to the consumer unit. These switches

usually have an extra fuse, which can be changed by opening the small drawer in the front plate of the switch.

If a fuse blows, or a MCB trips, shutting down the circuit, it indicates that something has overloaded or caused a fault on the circuit.

## MCB's

MCB's are very sensitive and will trip out automatically when a circuit is overloaded or identifies a fault. A blown light bulb can even cause the MCB to trip. MCB's can be reset, by putting the switch back to the ON position.

On lighting circuits, switching the MCB on will restore all lights apart from the blown bulb, which can be replaced. On individual circuits, the MCB may not reset as the appliance connected to the circuit may be faulty. On power circuits, it is likely that only one appliance is causing the problem. The most likely appliances which will cause the MCB to trip are those using and switching large currents, such as, electric cooker, toaster, kettle, iron, fridge, freezer and washing machine.

If the MCB cannot be switched on after the circuit has tripped, a faulty appliance may be the cause. To identify whether the fault is being caused by an appliance, please refer to the following:

Switch off and UNPLUG ALL appliances connected to circuit

- Switch on the MCB, it should now stay on
- Plug in and switch on each appliance in turn checking the MCB after each appliance is switched on
- If the MCB trips again, this indicates the last appliance plugged in is faulty.
- Switch the appliance off, reset the MCB and continue the process.
- If the MCB remains on when all other appliances have been connected, the appliance identified is likely to be the cause of the fault.
- Further checking can be carried out by plugging the appliance into a different socket and seeing if the MCB trips again.

If the MCB can be switched back on immediately after the appliance has tripped, it is possible that the fuse in the plug has blown. Try the appliance in another socket. If necessary, replace the fuse in the plug. If the MCB will not stay switched on when all appliances have been unplugged and the sockets switched off, the MCB or the circuit may be faulty. Report this problem to Housing Repairs on 0115 917 7777.

If the Electrician attends your home to a report of no power and identifies a faulty appliance causing the problem, you will be charged for this visit. If a faulty appliance is identified, this will need to be checked by a qualified electrician or domestic engineer.

## RCD's

If your fuseboard is fitted with a "Residual Current Device". Your installation will be protected by a device which automatically switches off the supply if an earth fault develops. This should be tested quarterly by pressing the button marked 'T' or 'Test'. The device should switch off the supply and should then be switched on to restore the supply. If the device does not switch off the supply when the button is pressed contact Housing Repairs on 0115 917 7777.

## FUSES

The above fault-finding guide is the same for rewirable or any other type of fuse. However fuses must be repaired using fuse wire of the correct rating. Replacing fuse wire is the responsibility of the tenant.

## SAFETY

Please be careful when using electricity.

- Water and electricity are dangerous together, do not use switches with wet hands. If water gets into a socket, turn off the circuit and do not use it again until it is completely dry.
- Use good quality plugs to British Standard 1363. If you have children, use plug blanks to protect sockets from hands. Use plugs with part insulated pins.