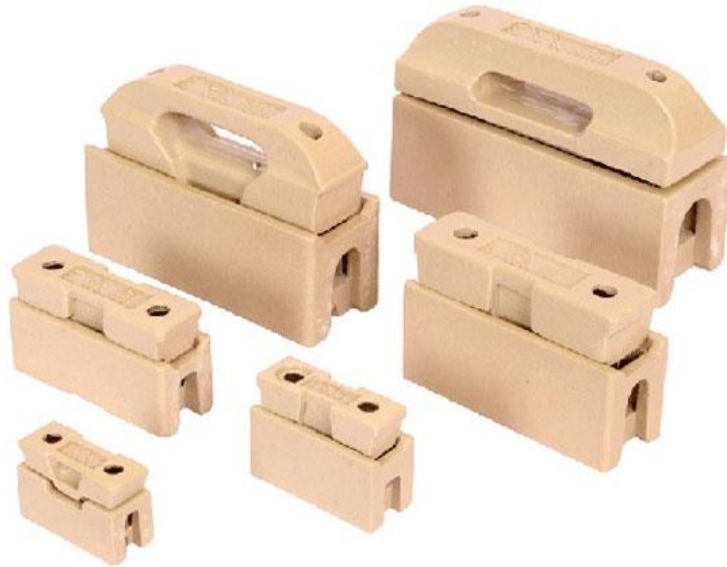




1. Does your home have rewirable fuses?

- Yes
- No



Fact

Rewirable fuses only protect the circuit and will not save your life.

Rewirable fuses are often found in older homes and are no longer used in new installations. The major hazard with rewirable fuses is the ability for home owners to replace the wire filament with incorrectly rated fuse wire, or in some cases, hairpins, paper clips, nails etc. This is very dangerous and defeats the purpose of the fuse all together. Modern RCDs are far safer and can be reset with ease.

Identification

Rewirable fuses are usually porcelain construction. You can pull the front out which exposes the fuse filament.

Location

Rewirable fuses will be located in your switchboard

2. Are your circuits protected by RCDs?

- Yes
- No



Fact

RCDs save lives

An RCD (residual current device) detects any "leakage current" and will disconnect the source of supply if it's above a dangerous level.

If you were to receive an electric shock from an RCD protected circuit, you might still feel a small shock but it will not be enough to be fatal in most circumstances.

Identification

Go to the side of your house, and locate your switchboard. lift the cover and you should see a couple of rows of switches and fuses, an RCD will always have a test button on the front. If you are unsure if you have an RCD or not, simply Google any part numbers you can see.

3. Do your RCD's pass the push-button test?

- Yes
- No
- N/A



Pressing the test should trip the RCD

Fact

An RCD can be easily tested by simply pressing the test button on the front. If the RCD turns off when you press the test button, it has passed. If nothing happens when you press the test button, the RCD will not protect you in the case of an electric shock.

4. Do you have a local isolator for your cooker/hob?

- Yes
- No
- N/A



Fact

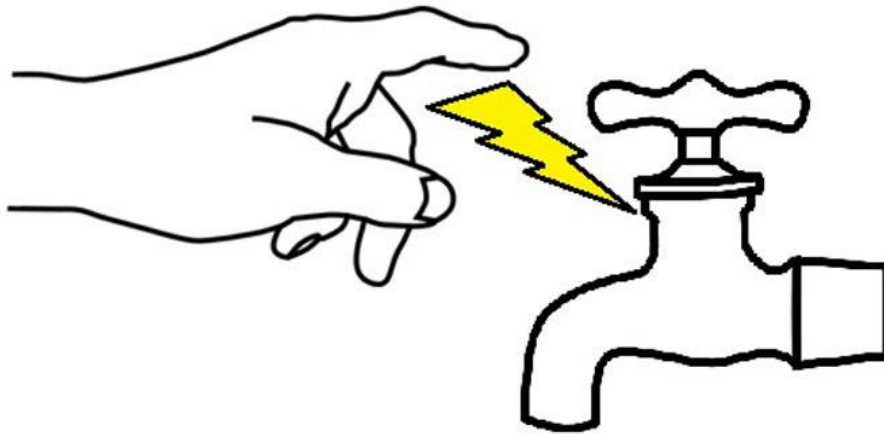
51% of house fires start in the kitchen, and the majority of these are caused by the hot plate/hob. It is important you have an isolator close by in the event a fire does start so you can isolate the power and extinguish the fire safely.

Location

In arms reach of your hotplate/hob.

5. Do you sometimes get minor electric shocks from your taps or benchtop?

- Yes
- No



Fact

If you are getting tingles from exposed metal parts in your home (taps, stainless steel bench etc) there may be an issue with your earthing. Although it may seem only minor, this can prove to be very hazardous. If there is an electrical fault between an appliance and a piece of steel that is not earthed, it can become live and has the potential to deliver a fatal electric shock. The tingles are a tell tale sign of poor earthing..

Location

Any metal pipes around the house.

6. If you have any outdoor fittings, are they weather resistant?

- Yes
- No
- N/A

SOLID OBJECT		MOISTURE	
1	Protected against a solid object greater than 50mm	1	Protected against vertical falling drops of water
2	Protected against a solid object greater than 12.5mm	2	Protected against drops of water up to 15 degrees from vertical
3	Protected against a solid object greater than 2.5mm	3	Protected against sprays of water
4	Protected against a solid object greater than 1mm	4	Protected against splashes of water
5	Dust protected. Limited ingress of dust	5	Protected against jets of water
6	Dust tight, no ingress of dust	6	Protected against powerful jets of water all directions
		7	Watertight against immersion in water between 15cm and 1m for 30 minutes
		8	Watertight against immersion in water for long periods

IP65
Ingress protection

Fact

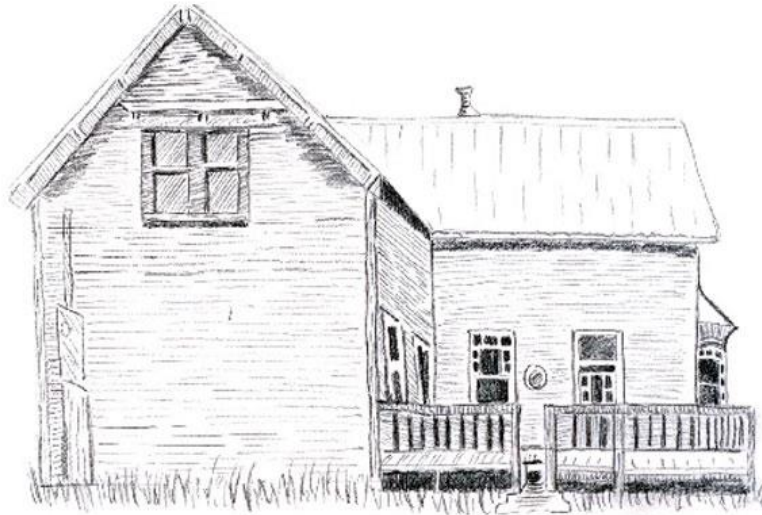
We all know water and electricity are not friends. If a fitting or fixture is not adequately rated, it can become an electric shock hazard.

Identification

All adequately rated electrical equipment will have an IP rating (ingress protection) and this will be displayed somewhere on the fitting. The second number represents the level of water resistance

7. Was your home built pre 1930?

- Yes
- No



Fact

Up until the 1930s, 'knob and tube' was the standardized wiring system for houses around most of the world. At the time of installation, the system was relatively safe. It wasn't until a few decades passed that they found the insulation was rapidly breaking down introducing a significant fire and shock hazard. Knob and tube was phased out over the following couple of decades until it was no longer used at all around the 1950s and banned in a number of countries.

Unless you have had your wiring upgraded, If your home is built pre 1950, we strongly recommended you have an Electrician inspect your installation.

8. Does your home have smoke alarms?

- Yes
- No



Fact

Only working smoke alarms save lives, smoke alarms are a legal requirement.

More than 50 people across Australia die each year as a result of home fires, with many more injured. Many of these homes do not have a working smoke alarm.

Location

At a minimum, you need to have at least 1 working smoke alarm. That is in the hallway near the bedrooms, if the bedrooms are far apart you will need 2. You can have a smoke alarm in the kitchen. (providing you don't burn your toast too often)

9. Are your smoke alarms connected to 230v mains supply?

- Yes
- No
- N/A



The green light indicates the smoke detector is hard-wired

Fact

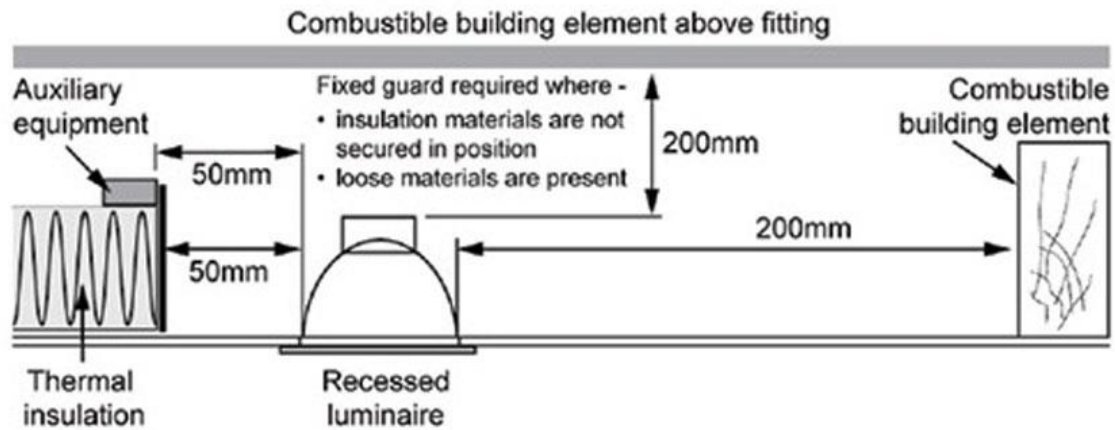
If you have a smoke alarm which is only powered by a battery and the battery is flat - you may as well not have any smoke alarms

Only working smoke alarms can provide the critical early warning needed to save lives and minimize property damage. When you are asleep you lose your sense of smell. A smoke alarm is your electronic nose and will alert you if there is smoke from a fire. A smoke alarm with a flat battery is of no use. To check if your smoke alarm is connected to 230v, simply remove the unit from it's base and inspect the base. You should be able to see the terminals that the unit slots in to.

Note: Most smoke alarms will have a backup battery inside except if it is a smoke alarm with a rechargeable battery or a 10 year battery (these are not as common). If you are unsure, please check with an Electrician.

10. Do you have heat shields around your down your downlights?

- Yes
 No
 N/A



Fact

Poorly installed down lights are thought to cause at least 1 house fire per week in Western Australia alone. Down lights radiate a lot of heat, any material too close or touching the down light has a very high chance of starting a fire.

Australian standards (AS/NZS3000) states there must at least 50mm clearance between any insulation barriers and any part of the light fitting. If insulation is of 'loose fill' type, fire resistant barriers must be in place.

Identification

Identifying this may require you climbing in your roof cavity to inspect your down lights. If you do not have any down lights, you need not worry about this.

Visit the Vested Utility website and enter your results into the free online electrical home safety checklist to find out if your home is safe.