

Energy Safety

Using Electricity Safely Near Water



Department of Consumer
and Employment Protection
Government of Western Australia

Using Electricity Safely Near Water

Water and electricity are a lethal mixture

Water is a good conductor of electricity. Electric shocks received in wet areas are more likely to be fatal. The combination of electricity, water, minimum clothing and bare feet can result in death.

To reduce the risk of electrocution, safety switches became mandatory protection for all power point circuits in new houses after June 1992 and for lighting circuits as well after December 2000.

Energy Safety recommends that safety switches be installed in houses that were built before safety switches became mandatory.

In the bathroom ...

- Avoid using electrical appliances in the bathroom.
- Ensure hands are dry when touching appliances or switches.
- Never use or leave electrical appliances where they can fall into the bath or basin.
- Never leave electrical appliances unattended with children.

In the kitchen ...

- Ensure hands are dry when touching appliances or switches.
- If liquid spills into an appliance, unplug the appliance and have it checked and tested before using it again.
- Only immerse appliances into water to clean them if instructions clearly allow.

In the laundry ...

- Ensure hands are dry when touching appliances or switches.
- Always wear dry footwear when using the washing machine.
- Clean up water spills on the floor.

Outdoors ...

- Don't use portable appliances, power tools or extension leads in water or when it is raining.
- Ensure that party lights and Christmas tree lights are suitable for outdoor use.
- If your house is not fitted with a safety switch, use a portable safety switch when appliances are being used outdoors.





Around the swimming pool ...

- Ensure hands are dry when touching appliances or switches.
- Do not use electrical appliances within 3.5 metres of the edge of the pool.
- String your party lights away from the pool.

What should I do if I receive an electric shock?

Despite all the precautions we take, faults can occur in electrical wiring, appliances and equipment that cause electric shocks or damage to property. If you receive an electric shock or property is damaged (even

if it is only minor) due to an electrical incident:

- STOP using the appliance, or keep away from whatever gave you the electric shock; and
- report the electric shock by telephoning your local supply authority (such as Western Power on 13 13 51) **and** Energy Safety on our 24-hour Freecall number 1800 678 198.

Regulations require all cases of electric shock and damage to property from electrical incidents to be reported so that the cause of the shock/damage can be investigated and corrected. Unreported minor shocks can lead to electrocution (death).



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Consumer Protection Advice Line 1300 30 40 54

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays

Wageline 1300 65 52 66

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays except Wednesday 9.00am-5.00pm

WorkSafe 9327 8777

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays

This booklet is available in alternative formats such as large type, computer disk and Braille. If you require the services of an interpreter, contact the Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS) on 131 450 and ask for connection to Labour Relations 1300 304 054 or WorkSafe 9327 8777.

The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection also has regional offices in Karratha, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury and Albany.

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