

# Electrical Safety Factsheet

## Did you know one of the ways we keep you safe is by regularly checking electrical wiring and consumer units in your home?

We call this an Electrical Installation Condition Report or EICR and it's a legal requirement for us to do these checks every 5 years.

The standards we must meet are strictly regulated and are there to keep you and your home safe. Our checks allow us to identify any faults or issues that might need to be fixed to prevent a fault from happening in the future. They also give us a chance to look for ways to improve the electrical systems in your home.

To allow us to carry out these checks, it's important that you allow us into your home. We will send a letter letting you know when we plan on carrying out this work. As it is difficult to arrange individual appointments with tenants, we would like to make the pass key available to the contractor to carry out the inspections. If for whatever reason you do not want the contractor to access your home except when you are present, please contact the office. If you have previously informed us never to use the pass key, we will not.

If you can't be there when we plan to visit, we can reschedule if the date remains within the 5 years timescales.

Our visit can last up to 2 hours and during this time our team will need to get into your consumer unit and all plug sockets. We will also need to turn off your electricity during our visit.

If your consumer unit is in a cupboard, we ask for that to be cleared so we can get easy access to do our checks. It's also really helpful if sockets around your home are easy to get to. Don't worry about moving any heavy pieces of furniture such as wardrobes.



It is important to make sure that the electrical installation in your property is well maintained. This is why Hjaltland Housing Association will carry out periodic testing of your fixed electrical installations and fixed equipment using a registered electrical contractor.



## What Should Tenants Do?

- Carefully read through any letter issued by the Association with regards electrical testing. If you don't understand the content of the letter, call the Association and a Technical Officer will explain the content.
- Cooperate with and provide access to the Association and their Contractors to carry out electrical testing at your property.
- Flag electrical problems as soon as they appear to the Association.
- Maintain any electrical items you bring into the property.
- Never try to carry out your own electrical repairs.
- Ensure that any of your own electrical appliances are safe. Make sure they are registered with the manufacturer, if there is a recall on safety grounds you will be contacted.
- Carry out your own visual electrical checks using the next page.
- Tenants can ask for electrical alterations in their home, but you must complete an alteration request form, have the request approved and any work completed by qualified electrician who will provide you and the Association with an electrical certificate.

<https://www.hjaltland.org.uk/documents/adaptations-alterations-request-form>

# Visual Electrical Checks Tenants Can Make



There are a number of simple, visual checks that you can carry out yourself:

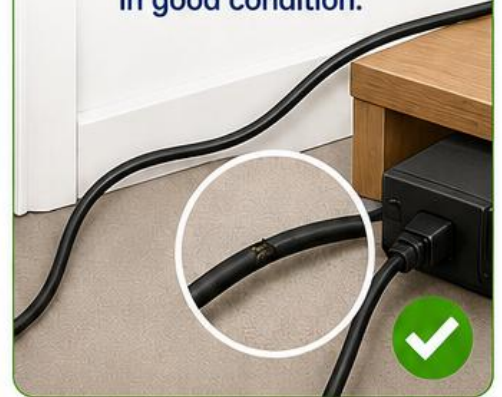
- 1** Make sure that your plug sockets are not overloaded.



- 2** Ensure that plugs and sockets are not damaged.



- 3** Check that visible cables and leads are in good condition.



- 4** Check that your light fittings are not visibly damaged and that downlighters are in good working condition.



- 5** Check that you are not storing combustible materials around your fuse box, electricity meter or electrical intake.



- 6** Don't use the top of the microwave for extra storage.



- 7** Never trail cables under carpets or rugs.



- 8** Never take mains-powered electrical items into the bathroom.



- 9** Always switch off your electrical items when they are not in use.



A few simple checks can help keep your home safe for you and your family.

