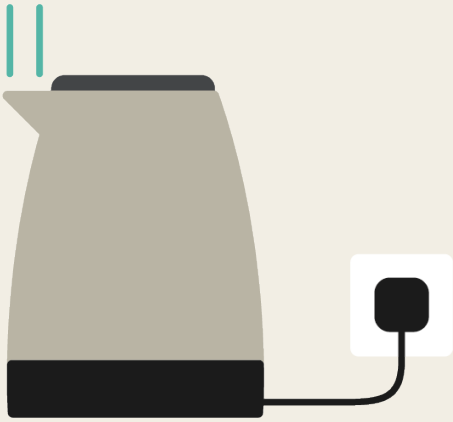


# ancho



## Electrical safety

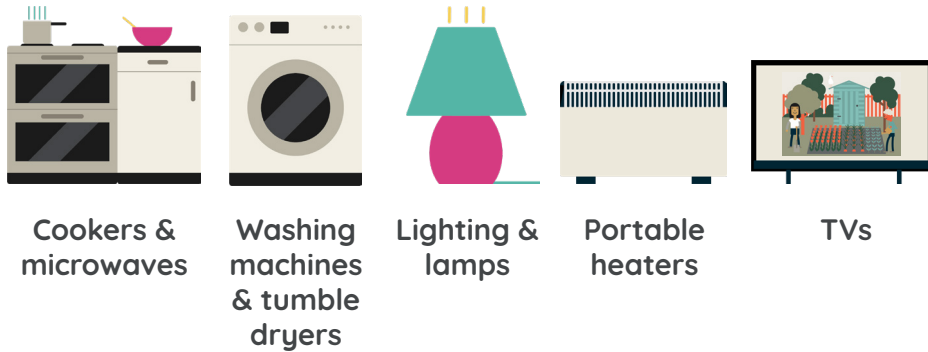
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Preventing fires in your home

Where would we be without electricity? We rely on it for everything from cooking and bathing to keeping warm and keeping entertained. But electricity is responsible for 20,000 fires in UK homes every year, so it's important you take steps to protect yourself and your loved ones from electrical dangers. Here's how.

### WHAT ARE THE MOST COMMON DANGERS?

The five appliances that cause the most electrical fires in UK homes are:




The biggest cause of fires in the home is cooking appliances, When using them be sure to follow these rules.

Do not:

- let leads from other appliances like kettles and toasters trail across the cooker
- use the area on top of the microwave for extra storage
- dry towels on or near the cooker
- hang items above the cooker hob such as utensils
- put metal, including foil, into a microwave
- leave cooking unattended
- let fat and grease build up on or in the cooker, especially in the grill pan where it can easily catch fire

Make sure you turn the cooker off when you have finished.

### WHAT ELSE CAN I DO TO PREVENT A FIRE?

- Keep portable or storage heaters away from flammable materials like paper, curtains and furniture. Never use one to dry your clothes and always follow manufacturers instructions.
- Turn off any electrical appliances that you are not using, particularly at night, when a fire can quickly spread unnoticed and cause more danger and damage.
- Before plugging your appliances in, check flexible cables for damage, wear and tear, and that the plug is fastened securely to the cable. Don't use the appliance unless it and the cable are in good condition.
- Only use equipment that has the British kite and CE marking:  
 
- Never leave charging laptops, phones or tablets unattended or on top of combustible materials such as beds and sofas. Always use the correct certified charger for your device.
- Always register your appliances to receive information on product recalls.
- Get in touch with your local fire service - they will be happy to carry out a free home fire safety visit

## WHAT ABOUT ELECTRICAL ADAPTORS?



13amp 4-way multi bar adaptor



Block adaptor

Only use 13 amp 4-way multi bar adaptors (extension leads) with surge protection rather than a block adaptor as this will put less strain on the wall socket.

Some block adaptors don't have a fuse, which increases the risk of overloading and fire.

Only use one 4-way multi bar adaptor per socket and **NEVER PLUG ONE EXTENSION LEAD INTO ANOTHER.**

DO NOT overload electrical adaptors by plugging too many appliances into one socket, especially those with a high electrical current rating such as kettles, irons, heaters and hair dryers.



## HOW DO I KNOW HOW MUCH POWER MY APPLIANCES USE?

Just because your extension lead can squeeze in four plugs doesn't mean it's safe to do so.

Surprisingly, some of the smallest appliances in our homes actually use the most amounts of power.

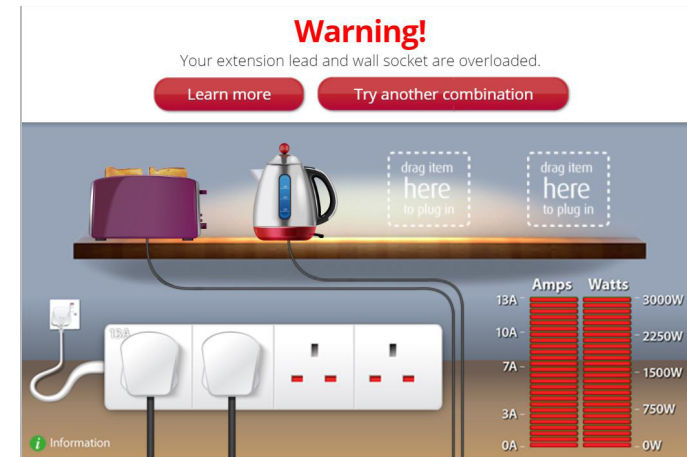
As a guide, you should only load one plug socket with a maximum of 3,000 watts.



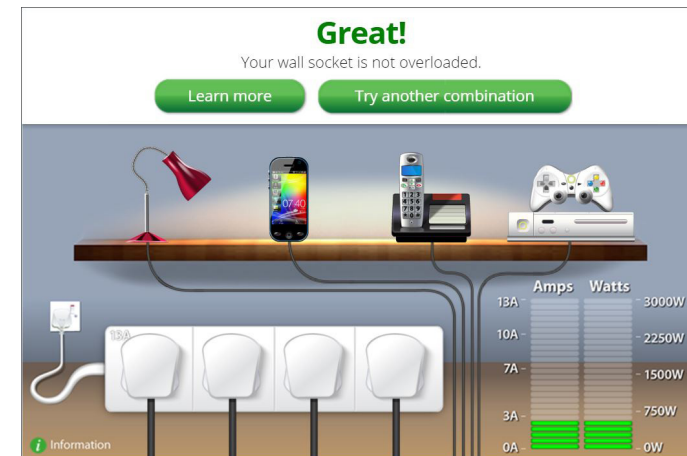
Taken from which.co.uk

If you're not sure about how much power your electrical appliances use, then you can use a handy online calculator to find out:

[www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/guidance/safety-around-the-home/overloadingsockets/](http://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/guidance/safety-around-the-home/overloadingsockets/)



This example clearly shows how easily an extension lead can become overloaded



This example clearly shows that the wall socket is not overloaded and is safe to use



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This leaflet is available on CD, in braille, in large print and in community languages.

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