

# ***YOUR GUIDE TO ELECTRICAL WORK IN THE KITCHEN***



***THE POWER TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER***



## **MORE THAN HALF OF ALL ACCIDENTAL HOUSE FIRES START IN THE KITCHEN.**

The mixture of water, hot surfaces, flexible cables and electricity can be very dangerous.

Electrical work undertaken in kitchens (such as adding new sockets, electric floor heating, extra voltage (ELV) lighting and central heating controls) are no longer notifiable in England unless a new circuit is required. In Wales electrical work undertaken in a kitchen is still notifiable.

The best way of meeting the requirements is to use an electrical contractor registered with a government approved Part P scheme, such as an NICEIC Domestic Installer to carry out the work as they can

- Self-certify and notify the work to building control on your behalf (if applicable)
- Ensure all sockets are positioned a safe distance from a sink
- Ensure appliances are controlled by a switched fused connection unit
- Ensure all sockets are RCD protected. An RCD (residual current device) works by switching off the flow of electricity when it detects a fault

Crucially, it is important to note that any electrical work in your kitchen should always be conducted by a registered electrical contractor. We know it may be tempting to have a go yourself. However the reality is it simply is not a risk worth taking and homeowners would be best placed to call on the services of a registered electrical contractor to ensure the safety of their homes and families.

More than half of all accidental house fires start in the kitchen. Government statistics show that the largest number of accidental reported fires caused by electricity in the home is due to people misusing electrical cooking appliances.



Here are some simple safety tips:

- Don't leave electrical appliances like dishwashers or washing machines running unattended
- Don't wrap flexible cables around any equipment when it is still warm
- Check that flexible leads and appliances such as kettles and toasters are in good condition
- Don't try to clean or repair an appliance when it is still plugged in
- Never try to get toast that is stuck out of a toaster while it is plugged in, and especially not with a metal knife as there are often live parts inside
- Make sure you thoroughly clean your oven and grill – a build up of fat and grease is a major cause of fires
- Check your plug sockets are not overloaded with too many electrical appliances as this can lead to overheating
- Avoid storing objects on top of appliances like the microwave, which can block ventilation
- Defrost your fridge and freezer (if applicable) at least once a year to ensure these appliances continue to work properly
- Make sure you have a working smoke detector in case something does go wrong

### **I want to fit a new kitchen. What do I need to know?**

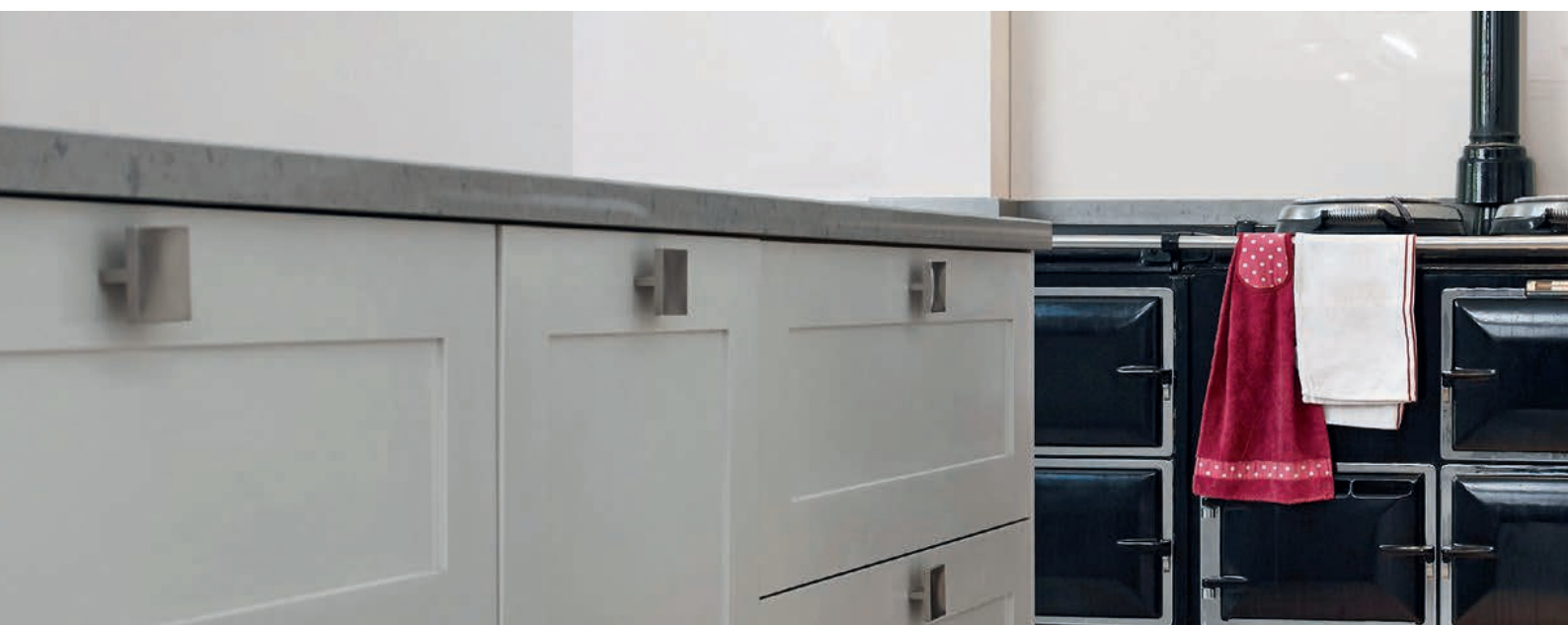
Certain electrical work carried out in the kitchen must be notified to the local building control department so that it meets the appropriate safety standards.

Speak to the kitchen fitter or to your local registered electrical contractor before any work to upgrade your kitchen commences. Find out if the work needs to comply with Part P of the building regulations (England & Wales only) and that the appropriate notification and certification will be taken care of once the work is completed.

A best way of meeting the requirements is to use an NICEIC registered electrical contractor. They can self-certify the work and notify the local building control department on your behalf, if required.

### **How do I know if my kitchen electrics are safe?**

If an appliance keeps tripping or there is noticeable damage to sockets, plugs, wiring or fittings or they look very old then it could be a sign that your electrics need checking. If you have any concerns regarding the electrics in your home then you should look to call a registered electrical contractor.



### How can I get my kitchen checked for electrical safety?

You should contact your local NICEIC Approved Contractor and ask them to carry out an electrical inspection (sometimes known as a periodic inspection) of the property.

Much like an MOT, this is an inspection of the current condition of an electrical installation in your home. On completion of the inspection, you will receive an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) detailing any damage, deterioration, defects, dangerous conditions and anything not in line with the present-day safety standard which might give rise to danger.



### How often should this be carried out?

There is no regulation regarding how often an electrical inspection should be carried out for the general public. However, NICEIC recommend that an EICR is carried out every 10 years in a privately-owned home. For rented properties this will be subject to different regulations and may need carrying out every 5 years.

### Where can I find an NICEIC registered electrical contractor?

You can search for a registered electrical contractor in your area by simply visiting [niceic.com](http://niceic.com) and typing in your postcode. We would recommend getting quotes from at least 3 different contractors before agreeing to carry out any work.

### Why use an NICEIC registered electrical contractor?

Choosing an NICEIC registered electrical contractor is a householder's best way to ensure a safe job. Electrical contractors registered with NICEIC are assessed on a regular basis to ensure high standards and their work is checked against the Wiring Regulations as well as other standards.

***TO FIND A REGISTERED ELECTRICIAN IN YOUR AREA VISIT [NICEIC.COM](http://NICEIC.COM) OR CALL 0333 015 6625***