

# Electrical Visual Safety Checks for Home Workers

When working at home we should take a few minutes to make sure that our electrical appliances and accessories are in good condition and don't pose a risk of fire or electric shock. This is especially important when working from home as it's likely that your appliances won't have been checked since you bought them. Simple visual safety checks don't require any special training and are easy to carry out in only a few minutes.

**Note:** Please make sure that you switch off and unplug any items before you carry out your visual inspection to avoid the risk of an electric shock.

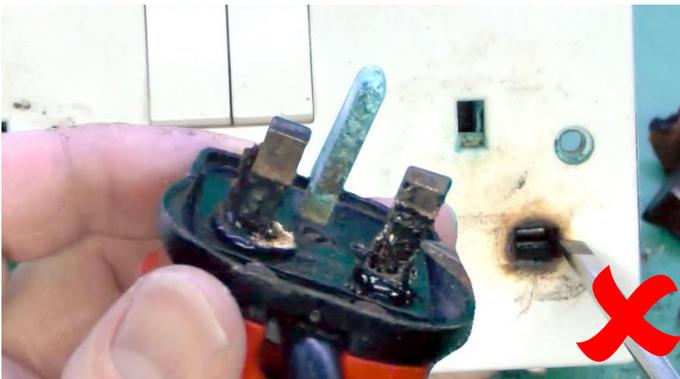
**Note:** If you find a fault with one of your electrical appliances during an inspection you should not attempt to repair it unless you are competent to do so. Always err on the side of caution.



The casing of the plug should be in good condition with no cracks, chips or missing pieces. They should not be held together with tape.



If any of the plug pins are bent, deformed, corroded or missing the appliance could pose a fire risk and should be removed from use.



If there is evidence of scorching, melting or overheating on a plug or the socket it should not be used. Unusual odours during use could also indicate overheating.



Plug fuses should be tightly fitted, correctly rated and should not be tampered with (e.g. by wrapping them in foil). Improvised fuses should never be used.



Flexes should be visually inspected and checked physically by running a hand along the length. If there are any breaks in the insulation the appliance should not be used.

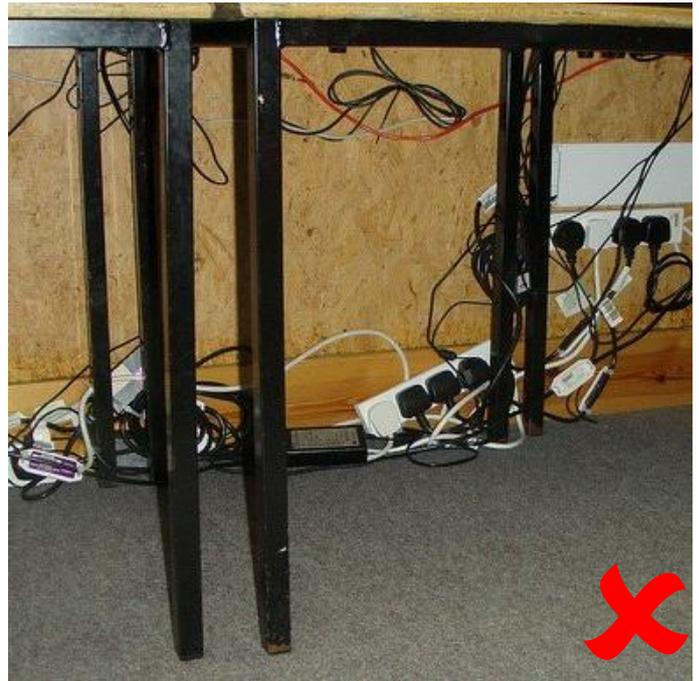


The outer insulation of the plug flex should be held by the cable grip. It should not be possible to see the insulation of the live, neutral or earth wires.

Another consideration when working from home is that we are more likely to use trailing sockets (extension cords) to allow us to use computers, monitors and other electrical equipment at the same time. In your home this is likely to be inevitable but you should always remember the following safety tips.



Avoid overloading extensions particularly if you are using appliances that require a lot of power such as heaters, remember most extensions are only rated to 13A. Overloading sockets can lead to an increased risk of electrical faults and fire. Remember that extensions should be subject to the same visual inspection as any other appliance.



Do not use multiple extension sockets plugged into one another to extend the reach of your cables. This process (sometimes known as daisy-chaining) can cause fuses to blow more regularly and can also increase the risk of a fire occurring if a fuse fails to operate when the system is overloaded.