Derventio

People Really **Do** Matter

Electrical Safety Guide



Stay safe in your Derventio home

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This guide has been produced to keep you safe when using electrical devices in Derventio properties.

In the UK there are 14,000 accidental fires a year caused by electricity. Faulty appliances and appliances that are being misused cause 75% of those fires. The other 25% are caused by faults within the electrical installation.

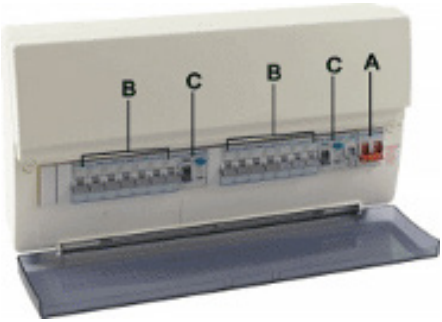
Therefore, it is very important that you read this guidance and use the information in it so that you can keep yourself and other residents safe.



Property Electrical Safety

The electrical system in your house or flat is tested every five years to make sure it is safe to continue using. If problems are identified, then Derventio will make sure that these are rectified as soon as possible

All Derventio properties have an electrical consumer unit which contain Residual Current Devices (RCD) and Miniature Circuit Breakers (MCB) or Residual Current Breaker with Overload (RCBO) – RCD and MCB combined. These devices are provided to protect you if there is a fault with the wiring in the property or with an electrical appliance you are using.



A - Main Switch **B** - Miniature Circuit Breaker **C** - RCD

However, it must be remembered that these devices will **NOT** prevent a fire if an electrical appliance gets too hot.

If you have problems with RCDs and MCBs constantly cutting off the electricity (tripping) then you should inform your Housing & Support Officer as soon as possible.

Appliances and Devices

The only electrical appliances allowed in Derventio properties are:

Items supplied by Derventio:

- Toaster
- Kettle
- Iron
- Microwave
- Fridge/freezer
- Cooker/oven
- Washing machine



Items supplied by resident:

- Mobile phone
- Phone charger
- Computer
- Vape
- TV - must have a PAT test (portable appliance test)

Electricity should be used exclusively for domestic utilities, including white goods, kitchen appliances, and reasonable electronic devices (such as one gaming item).

If you need an extension lead with multiple sockets, then you should speak to your Housing & Support Officer who will assess whether this is required and make sure it is safe.

Using Electrical Equipment

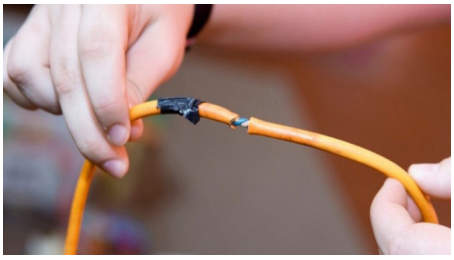
Before you use an electrical item, you must carry out the following checks. Checks on plugs and cables do not apply to washing machines, ovens/cookers or fridges where you cannot see the plug or cable.

Electrical Equipment Checklist

- Is there any damage to the case or body?
- Is there any damage to the electrical plug?
- Is the cable between the appliance and the plug damaged?
- Are there any burn or scorch marks on the appliance or on the plug?

If you answer yes to any of these questions, then the item should not be used, and it should be reported to your Housing & Support Officer. If the item belongs to you, it should not be used until it has been repaired by a professional.





Examples of a damaged plug and damaged cable

When you have used an electrical appliance always switch it off at the electrical socket after use. It is important when you go out and leave your room or flat unattended that electrical appliances are switched off at the socket or unplugged.

Using Battery Chargers

The only electrical items containing a battery you are allowed in the property are mobile phones, laptops, tablets and vapes.

The only battery charger you should use for these devices is the one supplied by the manufacturer. If your charger fails or is damaged, then you should obtain a replacement made by the manufacturer of the item. These types of equipment contain lithium batteries. This type of battery needs to be charged correctly to prevent it from overheating.

If the lithium battery or charger overheats then it could ignite and cause a fire.



Only use battery chargers supplied by the manufacturer

You must **never** leave a device charging overnight or when you go out.

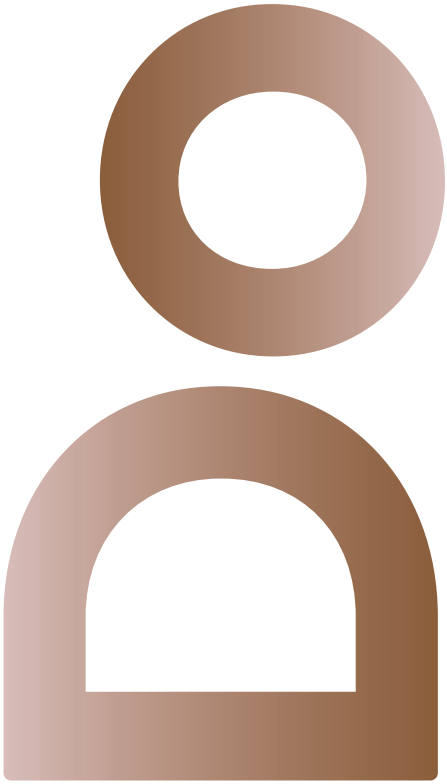
If you think that the battery in any of these types of devices is damaged do not attempt to recharge it. The item must be recycled correctly. If you don't know how to do this speak to your Housing & Support Officer.

Night Time Checklist



Follow these steps to stay safe at night

- Turn off and unplug electrical appliances unless they are designed to be left on
- Don't charge phones and devices overnight
- Turn heaters and fires off
- Turn cookers and hobs off
- Don't leave washing machines, dryers or dishwashers on overnight
- Close the doors to each room
- Make sure exits and stairs are kept clear
- Keep a phone and door keys nearby
- If there is a fire, get out, stay out and call 999



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