

Part P factsheet

Don't put lives at risk from dangerous electrics

As something we use everyday, it's easy to take electricity for granted. If you attempt to do DIY electrics or use an unregistered electrician to carry out work in your home you could be putting your family's lives at risk.

Each year around 12,500 house fires, 750 serious injuries and 10 deaths are caused by unsafe electrics in the home.



Electrical safety laws

NICEIC registered electricians have already helped to improve the standard of electrical work in the UK. An electrical safety law, Part P of the Building Regulations, was introduced by the Government on 1st January 2005 with the aim of further enhancing the protection of homeowners and reducing the risk of electric shock when using electricity. The law, which applies to England and Wales aims to improve electrical safety in the home and prevent the number of accidents, which are caused by faulty electrical work.

This brings electrical work in the home under statutory control along with other types of building work, such as gas installations.

The law requires an electrician registered with a government-approved scheme, such as the one operated by NICEIC, to carry out most electrical work in the home. After completion of any work your NICEIC registered electrician will issue you with an electrical safety certificate and a Compliance Certificate to confirm it meets the requirements of the Building Regulations.

You can only carry out electrical work yourself if you can inspect and test that it is safe for use. To comply with the law you must notify your local building control office before you begin any work and pay the appropriate fee for them to inspect the work.



What will happen if you don't follow the regulations?

- You will have no certificate to prove that the work has been carried out by a registered electrician, or that the work performed has been passed as safe by your local building control.
- It may be problematic when it comes to selling your home if you cannot produce evidence that electrical work has been carried out in accordance with the Building Regulations.
- It is a criminal offence to carry out work that does not comply with building regulations, with a maximum fine of £5,000.

Your local building control may insist that you re-do the electrical work.



What electrical work does the law cover?

The requirements of Part P apply to most electrical work in your home. There are however, certain relaxations that apply for minor work.

Minor work

'Minor work' is electrical work that does not involve the addition of a new circuit, for example adding new sockets or light switches to an existing circuit, or the replacement of sockets, light switches and ceiling roses. This work does not have to be undertaken by a registered electrician and you do not need to notify your local building control office. However, ALL electrical work must comply with BS 7671, the wiring regulations.

High risk locations

Kitchens, bathrooms and gardens are classed as 'special locations' because the risk of electric shock is greater. Unless you are only replacing accessories, work in a kitchen, bathroom, garden or outbuilding must either be undertaken by a registered electrician or notified to building control.

With so many electrical appliances in your kitchen, combined with the mixture of hot surfaces and water, it is important that the electrical installation is safe. When installing a new kitchen, it is advisable you use a registered electrician or kitchen installer to do the electrical work.

External electrical installations can be particularly hazardous due to the presence of water and the extremes of weather, which can make equipment deteriorate faster.

If you are unsure, check with a registered electrician or your local building control office before starting any work.



How do I know when to notify?

The chart below provides a quick-reference guide to which type of electrical work should be notified to building control or carried out by a registered electrician.

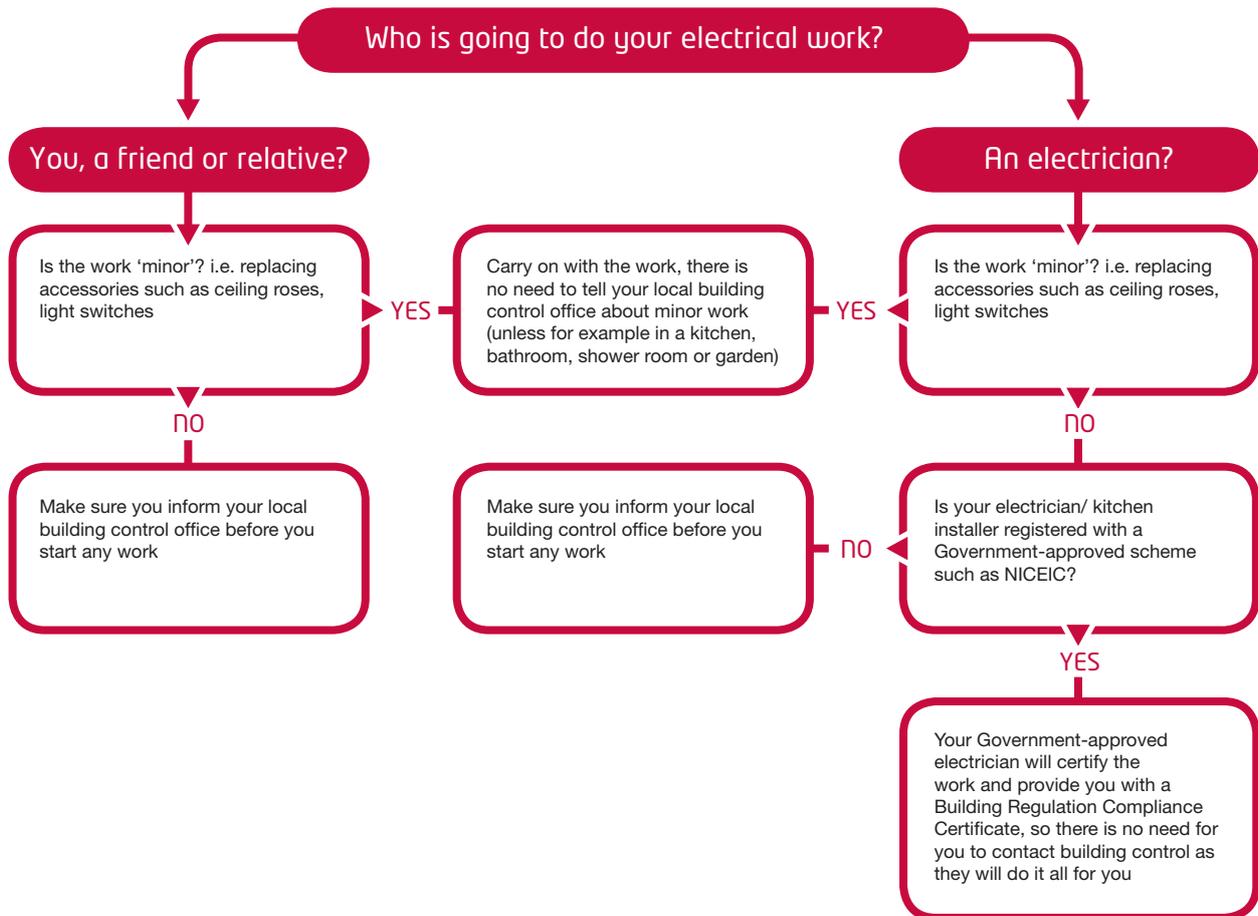
✓ you can undertake the work yourself to BS7671, there is no need to inform building control, however NICEIC would recommend you use a registered electrician to carry out any electrical work in your home

✗ you must notify building control or use a registered electrician

Type of Work	Work in a kitchen, bathroom or garden	Work in other locations
A complete new electrical system or total rewire	✗	✗
Fuse box change	✗	✗
Adding a socket to an existing circuit	✗	✓
Adding a light switch to an existing circuit	✗	✓
Connecting a cooker to an existing connection	✓	✓
Replacing a damaged cable for a single circuit, on a like-for-like basis	✓	✓
Replacing a damaged accessory, such as a socket or ceiling rose	✓	✓
Replacing a light fitting	✓	✓
Installing and fitting a storage heater	✗	✗
Installing extra low voltage lighting	✗	✗
Installing a new electric supply to garden shed, garage, greenhouse or other out building	✗	✗
Installing a solar photovoltaic power supply	✗	✗
Installing electric ceiling or floor heating	✗	✗
Installing an electricity generator	✗	✗
Installing telephone or extra-low voltage wiring for communication or IT equipment	✗	✓
Replacing an immersion heater	✓	✓
Installing a socket or lighting point outdoors	✗	✗
Fitting and connecting a new electric shower with a different kW rating	✗	N/A
Adding a socket or light to an existing circuit in a garden shed, garage, greenhouse or other outbuilding	✓	N/A
Installing a garden pond pump to the fixed electrics, including supply	✗	N/A
Installing an electric sauna	✗	N/A

Should I receive a certificate once the work is done?

Yes: Your NICEIC registered electrician will issue a Certificate of Compliance with national safety standards and a Building Regulations Compliance Certificate for all electrical work that has been carried out. This is a safety declaration confirming that their work complies with Part P of the Building Regulations.



Why should homeowners choose an NICEIC electrician?

Cutting corners can have dangerous consequences, so in the interest of safety homeowners should use a professional and fully qualified electrician to carry out electrical work in their home, such as one registered with NICEIC.

NICEIC was set up in the 1950s and is the leading independent voluntary electrical regulatory body assessing the competence of UK electricians. NICEIC maintains a register of around 20,000 Approved Contractors and Domestic Installers.

To enroll with NICEIC all electricians, and anyone they employ, must comply with national safety standards and codes of practice. They are regularly inspected, which means NICEIC is a symbol you can trust, and is only displayed by electricians offering a dependable service.



How to find an NICEIC electrician

If you're planning to get electrical work carried out in your home NICEIC maintains a list of around 20,000 Approved Contractors and Domestic Installers. The website offers a free service that you can use to search NICEIC's database for electricians in your area. Visit www.findanelectrician.info and simply enter the first part of your postcode to generate a suitable list. Alternatively you can call **0870 013 0382**.

NICEIC Approved Contractors and electricians registered with the NICEIC Domestic Installer scheme can undertake electrical work in the home in compliance with Part P of the Building Regulations.



Where can I get more information?

- NICEIC is the leading electrical regulatory body for the UK and is here to help you. Call us on **0870 013 0382** or visit us at www.niceic.com
- Your local authority building control department or visit www.labc.co.uk
- The Department of Communities and Local Government provides information on building regulations on its website, visit www.communities.gov.uk or www.planningportal.gov.uk