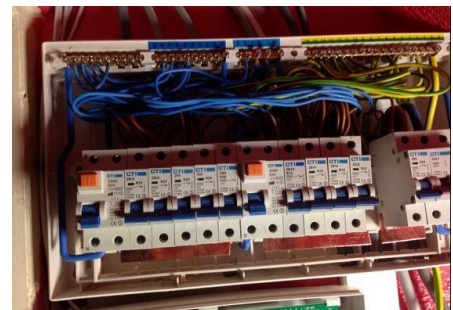


*Having worked with domestic and commercial customers throughout the UK for many years, Ti Electrical's experienced electricians have compiled their top 10 tips to keep you safe from fire in your home and at work.*

1. It sounds obvious but so many people put it off for another day – ensure your home and business premises are fitted with **smoke alarms**. Widely regarded by the Fire Service as life savers, carefully positioned smoke alarms can alert you to the risk of fire before it's too late. If you're unsure about where to locate the devices, ask an experienced electrician to provide recommendations based on the size of your property and the hazards associated with it. Think about the need to interlink the alarms to increase your safety, and choose ones with battery back-ups, for added peace of mind.
2. For larger commercial premises, a **fire alarm** should be installed. As with many areas of business, a number of options exist, so talk to people 'in the know' to devise the solution best suited to your needs. You may choose a traditional fire alarm whereby heat detectors, smoke detectors and sounders are all wired separately. Or, perhaps a two-wire system which incorporates the detector and sounder into one unit and is installed on the same circuit, may be better for you. Whichever you choose, ensure the system is designed, installed, commissioned and maintained by electrical fire safety experts that know how to keep you safe.
3. Remember that electrical equipment doesn't last forever so it should be safety tested to ensure it remains fit for use. **Portable Appliance Testing (PAT testing)** is therefore very important, especially in the business environment. There are no absolute rules regarding how often equipment should be assessed, but regular inspections are recommended. Annual tests are a good starting point, but qualified electricians will be able to recommend if a greater/lesser frequency is required.
4. You don't just need to ensure appliances are in full working order – the quality of wires can deteriorate over time too. **Fixed wire testing** ensures your property and the people that inhabit it, are safe. Once again, the recommended frequency of such periodic testing varies, but we have expanded on some suggestions on our website:  
<http://www.titanium-electrical.co.uk/electrical-testing/periodic-electrical-testing/>.
5. We all love our gadgets, and with every purchase comes the need for an extra plug socket. **Additional sockets** are quick, cheap and easy to install, by a professional, so don't be tempted to overload sockets by using one extension cable after another. If you do use an extension, opt for the long, fused variety. Cube extensions risk overheating due to excessive power usage in one small area, which could put you in danger.



6. In May 2014 the BBC reported that, in a test carried out by charity 'Electrical Safety First' on unofficial phone chargers, half had been wired using "sub standard components". This finding reiterates this very important tip – **avoid cheap imported chargers** which can be very dangerous and could lead to a fire in your home or workplace. For the sake of a few extra pounds, stick to manufacturers' official products.
7. When replacing **light bulbs**, pay attention to the specific wattage and fitting required. If the bulb doesn't fit or the wattage is too high, it could melt the fitting and cause a fire hazard.
8. **Beware of old re-wireable fuse boards**, which are very common in properties over a certain age. They often provide little protection from electric shocks and can be a significant fire hazard. At the very least, appoint a City & Guilds qualified electrician to check the fuse board with fixed wire testing, and/or consider a modern, much safer 17<sup>th</sup> edition replacement.
9. Fuses and circuit breakers are designed to increase electrical safety, but for much greater protection, you may benefit from a **Residual Current Device (RCD)**. This clever life-saving tool automatically switches off the electrical current if there is a fault. This means, if you were to touch something live, such as a bare wire, it would prevent you from getting a shock, or if a faulty appliance overheated it would protect against the risk of fire and electrocution.
10. Finally, quite simply, electrical work is one area where a 'DIY' approach is perhaps best avoided. Fire safety is not something to be taken lightly, and you can't put a price on someone's life, so please **invest in the expertise of a knowledgeable, fully qualified electrician**, for all of your electrical requirements.



*[Ti] Electrical, part of the [Ti] Installations brand, is based in Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. If you think the team may be able to help you improve the fire safety of your domestic or commercial property, please call the office on 01484 818180 for a no obligation consultation. Alternatively you can email [ino@ti-installationsltd.co.uk](mailto:ino@ti-installationsltd.co.uk) or complete our [short enquiry form](#).*

