

The following photos show the differences between the genuine and unapproved socket outlets.



Fig. 1. Unapproved look-alike has company identification cut off.



Fig. 2. Unapproved look-alike with close up of clock face. If the clock arrow points to '05' as in this photograph, the socket outlet may be unapproved.

If in doubt, arrange for a licensed electrical contractor to examine the socket outlet.

If you are having any electrical work done around your home, make sure that you use a licensed electrician. The electrician must provide you with a Compliance Certificate to show that the work is complete, has been tested and is safe.

To find out if an electrician has a current licence, you can do a licence check on the Office of Fair Trading website at [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au)

This is a plain language guide to your rights and responsibilities. It must not be relied on as legal advice.

For more information about this topic, refer to the *Electrical (Consumer Safety) Act 2004* and the *Electrical (Consumer Safety) Regulation 2006* or seek independent legal advice.

For more information about electrical safety visit [www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au](http://www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au)

13 32 20



New South Wales  
Government



# Electrical safety

It's your responsibility.

An initiative from the  
NSW Government

**Did you know every householder in NSW has a legal responsibility to keep their home safe, including the way it uses electricity?**

**Or, that if you own or run a business you're responsible for the electrical safety of employees and everyone else on your premises?**

**The good news is meeting your responsibilities is much easier if you remember five simple rules...**

### **1. Regular maintenance**

It's vital to keep your appliances, electrical wiring, fittings, switchboard and earthing connections (particularly for properties over 25 years old) in good working order. If you ever have, or suspect a problem, always contact a licensed electrician.

You can check if your electrician is properly licensed by asking to see their electrical contractor's licence, doing a licence check on the Office of Fair Trading website or by calling Fair Trading on 13 32 20.

### **2. Certificate of compliance**

If you have electrical work done, your electrician should give you a uniquely numbered 'Certificate of Compliance Electrical Work' to show the work has been tested and checked to ensure it complies with the regulations. Your electrician may be

required to provide a copy of the certificate to the electricity network operator.

### **3. Safety switches**

If you haven't already done so, seriously consider installing an electrical safety switch. If you already have a safety switch, be sure to test it every three months and if it fails, have a licensed electrician check it.

Also, if your house was built before 1977 it is unlikely to have an earth rod and you should seriously consider having one installed.

### **4. Contact your landlord or agent**

If you're renting, report electrical problems to your landlord or managing agent immediately. These should be repaired as a priority as landlords have a legal obligation to ensure all electrical installations and fittings on their property are kept in safe order.

### **5. Report electrical accidents**

By law you must report any electrical accident where medical treatment is required, either by calling your electricity provider or the Office of Fair Trading on 13 32 20. Employers must also report such accidents to WorkCover.

#### **What to do in an emergency**

If urgent medical attention is required, call 000 for assistance.

You should also call the emergency number on your electricity bill to arrange to make your electrical installation safe.

## **Check your power points**

Thousands of potentially dangerous counterfeit power points (a copy of HPM XL777WE double power outlets) may have been installed in homes and businesses between September 2005 and February 2006.

### **You have only one life**

Counterfeit power points will fail over time, with a potential risk of fire or exposure to live electrical wires. Don't put yourself or your family at risk.

### **Identifying counterfeit power points**

The counterfeit power point can be easily identified by removing the decorative cover plate, or face (this comes off easily without the use of any tools). If the clock arrow points to 05, then it might be a counterfeit item and you should contact a licensed electrical contractor to have it checked.

**CAUTION: you must not remove the power point from the wall as this exposes live wires and is dangerous.**

### **Checking your power points**

Remove the front cover of the power point by:

- placing fingers of each hand on either side of the cover, then
- pull or manipulate cover off by pulling the cover towards you.