

# PRACTICE ELECTRICAL SAFETY AT HOME

## Electrical Risk at Home due to a rise in people working remotely during the corona virus lockdown

As many people set up temporary home offices and adjust to a new way of working, there could potentially be a rise in electrical fires. Make sure you follow the simple advice to reduce your risk of an Electrical fire/Shock.



“ **WASHING HANDS PROTECT AGAINST INFECTION BUT WET HANDS LEADS TO ELECTROCUTION** ”

### NEVER OPERATE ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE WITH WET HAND.

We have asked to wash our hands often during these crises. But at the same time When you touch the switch with wet hands, there are more chances that the water will seep into the switch and get the circuit complete for you to be electrocuted.



“ **DISINFECTING YOUR HOUSE HOLD ELECTRICAL APPLIANCES- REMEMBER TO UNPLUG FROM POWER SOURCE** ”



The first thing you should do is to disconnect all the power sources from the house hold Electrical appliances (Washing machine, refrigerator, Micro Oven, Mixie, and Vacuum Cleaner Laptop, Mobile) before disinfecting. Turn off, unplug, and remove or tightly cover any electrical parts with plastic sheeting before disinfecting.

To prevent damage or a shock, you need to turn off power to your machine. For computers, you should power down and then unplug the device. You'll also want to unplug the individual monitors. Unplug laptops and remove their batteries if your model allows for this to be done. If you use a wireless keyboard, remove the batteries.

“ **CONTINUOUS RUNNING OF AIR CONDITIONER - POTENTIAL CAUSE OF FIRE RISK.** ”

Ac's consumes a lot of power. During Lockdown, If these units keep running non-stop at really low temperatures, which put a lot of load on the compressor and wiring. When it gets overloaded, it causes a spark that leads to fire

- Fires due to air-conditioners are caused by short-circuit in the wiring which causes the appliance to overheat and subsequently ignite
- Frequent power surges or fluctuation in voltage can also overheat AC units.



“ **SWITCHING OFF “AC” ONLY THROUGH REMOTE ARE NOT FULLY SAFE** ”



If we turn it off by just pressing the switch off button in the remote, without unplugging the main MCB switch, the chance of fire ignition is still possible.

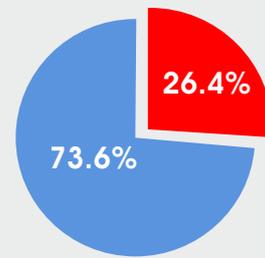
Unless the isolator is switched off, Electrical source, the electrical wiring, equipment or component must have been energised. Current will still be flowing in the wirings to the Fan coil unit. While this current that is going to the Fan coil unit on standby mode is low, at 0.01A for some brands, it should be noted that ignition is still possible.

## Proportion of fires involving Fan Coil Unit (standby mode versus in operation) - Singapore Civil Defence Force

Combustible products like curtains, below AC unit may also result in fire spread. One needs to be careful on this front

A good rule of thumb according to experts is to keep areas surrounding air conditioning units clear on all sides.

AC Fires involving in operation



AC Fires involving on standby mode

## “ AVOID OVERLOADING OF ELECTRICAL SOCKETS ”

“With everyone at home, people may be using the same outlets to charge phones, laptops and other digital equipment, which also presents a fire hazard.” Never overload an extension lead by plugging in appliances that together will exceed the maximum current rating stated for the extension lead.

Most people have extension leads in their homes, using 4-way bar adaptors to increase the number of appliances. However, there is space to plug in four appliances; this does not mean it is always safe to do so. Check the current rating of the extension lead before plugging appliances into it. The rating should be marked on the back or underside of the extension lead. Never plug the extension cord with other extension Cord.



## “ KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR CHILDREN'S ELECTRICAL GADGETS ”



There was always a concern about the use of gadgets. With the COVID-19 crisis, average screen time of children is on the rise with online classes, homework, and chat with friends, gaming and watching shows or movies. Left with no choice the screening time is on the rise.

Children often use different gadgets like desktops, laptops, mobile phones, always chance of shock hazard while charging.

If they leave their device charging on the bed, use an unbranded charger then they are always dangerous. The heat caused by the device, combined with combustible materials, has the potential to cause a fire.

## ESSENTIAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY DEVICES IN HOME.

During this Lockdown period, we always look for essential items for our day today activity. Similarly, there are few Electrical Safety items which are essential at our Home.

### MCB Protection:

When we heard a word fire accident the main causes will be short circuit.

MCB provides short-circuit protection and overload protection. The right selection of MCB is very important. Recommended Short circuit protection of an AC units

### RCD:

Residual current devices (RCDs) detect an Electric Shock which travel through the body and cut the power off immediately.

They are now mandatory electrical safety on all circuits supplying:

- Power outlets
- Lighting
- All devices in bathrooms and wet areas

MCB+RCCB or RCBO shall be provided at the in-comer of distribution boards for Protection against short circuit and electrical leakages.



# “TEST YOUR SELF”

Am I Electrically Safe at Home?

YES

I always Purchase all Electrical Appliance with Standard Mark

YES

I always Maintain/Service my Electrical Appliances Regularly.

YES

Adequately Use Safety Protection Devices like MCB, RCCB, and Surge Protection at Home

YES

Follows Electrical Safety guideline in Home

YES

I am Electrically Safe at Home.

NO

NO

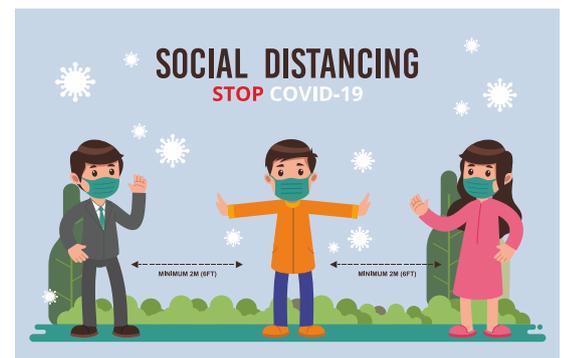
NO

NO

**You're Likely to be Unsafe.**

Recommended to Follow Electrical Safety at Home

Although electricity powers and enhances our lives in so many ways, we must always be very careful around it. Teach children and practice safety at home and around the neighbourhood.



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