



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Business Information

Do you supply second-hand electrical goods?

What does second-hand mean?

Second-hand goods are goods that have been supplied before to an end-user. This includes hired or leased equipment and equipment in furnished accommodation which is let.

What are my responsibilities?

You should be aware that:

- All goods you have for sale must meet legal safety requirements.
- Anyone injured by unsafe goods you have sold may be able to claim compensation from you through the courts.

How can I tell if they are safe?

Have the electrical item examined or tested by a competent qualified electrician. This is not a mandatory requirement but a sensible precaution. It is advisable to seek technical advice if you are unsure about the safety of any equipment.

General principles

- Appliances should have enough markings and instructions to allow them to be used safely.
- No electric parts should be accessible without first dismantling the appliance with the use of a tool.
- Appliances must not overheat or get hot so as to cause injury when touched.
- Appliances must be sufficiently insulated or earthed to prevent electric shocks.
- Any moving parts must be guarded, for example fan blades.

Plugs

Second-hand electrical appliances must have a plug fitted. The plug must be of an approved type with insulated shielding on the live and neutral pins. It must also be fitted with the correct fuse.

Some appliances may be supplied without a plug if they are intended to be permanently connected to the fixed wiring of the mains, e.g. ceiling rose connectors etc.

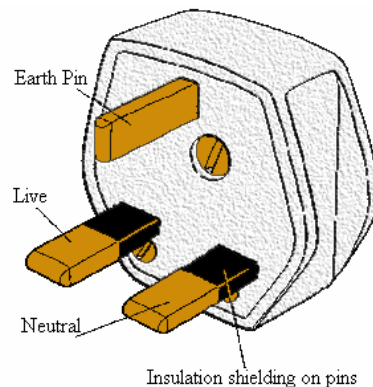
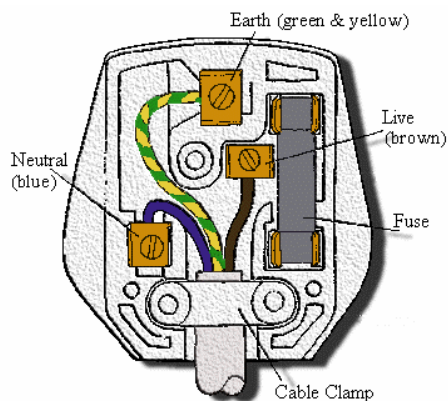
Wiring colour codes

The wires of a 3-core mains lead should be coloured as follows: -

- Earth – green & yellow
- Neutral – blue
- Live – brown

Please turn over...

Plugs (continued)...



Safe fireguards for electric fires

Electric fires for use in the home must have a fireguard that meets British Standards, or the European equivalent. The distance between the bars and the strength of the guard are laid down in these Standards.

The fireguard is satisfactory if any vertical bars are 5mm or less apart, otherwise the guard must satisfy one of the following: -

- If the horizontal bars are 12mm or less apart then the vertical bars must not be more than 125mm apart.

OR

- If the horizontal bars are 20mm or less apart then the vertical bars must not be more than 50mm apart.

Selling electric blankets

We advise you not to sell second-hand electric blankets, as their history, usage and condition may be unknown.

Keeping within the law

If you sell second-hand electrical goods, that are unsafe or incorrectly labelled, and you have not taken reasonable precautions to avoid this, you may be prosecuted. You could be fined up to £5000 and/or imprisoned for up to six months. Taking reasonable precautions means you must take positive steps to ensure that you comply with the law.



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