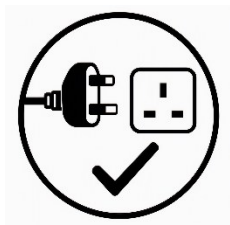


Safer Shopping: Buying electrical items



This easy read tells you about how you can check that electrical items you are buying are safe.



This information is from Nottinghamshire Trading Standards.

Why must I be careful when buying electrical items?



Electrical items that are not safe can seriously injure or kill you.



They can cause:

- Electric shocks.



- Burns.



- Fires.

Things you should check before buying an electrical item.



You should check these things if you are buying an electrical item online or in person.



- 1. Only buy electrical items from **reputable** sellers.



Reputable means they are trusted because they are known for selling things that are safe and good quality.



Fake and dangerous items are often sold cheaply through discount stores, markets and online shops.



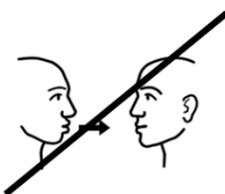
If you are not sure or have any worries, you should ask the seller for more information.



- 2. If you are buying something in an online auction, the only thing the seller must do by law is to **accurately describe** the item they are selling.



This means they are allowed to say they are not responsible for the quality of the item, if the item is the same as they described it.



This means that there could be a problem with the electrical item that has not been mentioned by the seller.



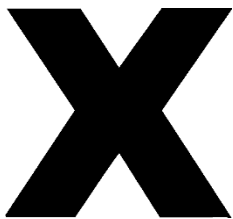
- 3. Check the item is marked with the UKCA or CE mark.



By law, electrical items must have the UKCA or CE mark.



These marks show that an item is safe by UK and European law.



But these marks can be faked, so you can't rely just on these marks to decide if an item is safe.



You still must think about if the item seems safe, where you are buying it from, and how much you paid for it.



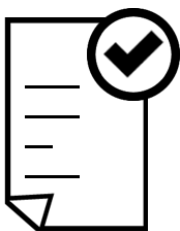
- 4. If the item is big enough, it should be marked with a name and address for the **importer** and **manufacturer** of the product.



Importer means who brings the electrical item into the country.



Manufacturer means who makes the electrical item.



If the item is too small to have a label with the names and addresses on, this information should be on the packaging or papers with the item.



- 5. The item should come with instructions and any special warnings about how to use it safely.



- 6. Check the item has either:
 - A standard UK plug with a fuse.
 - A charger with UK plug pins.
 - A conversion plug with a fuse, not a travel adaptor.



If you don't understand what these things are, please ask someone who supports you to help you check this.



You must also check:

- It is in good condition.
- It has the right size pins.
- It is properly attached to the cord.



- 7. You can check [‘gov.uk product recall’](https://www.gov.uk/product-recall) to find out if the item you are buying is known to be dangerous, has a problem, or has been recalled.

- 8. It is important to register your details with 'Register My Appliance'.



If you do this, you will get any updates from the makers of your item and be told about things like fire safety and dangers.



It is also important to register your appliance if you are buying something second- hand.



This is because registering is the only way you will be told about any important information about your electrical item.

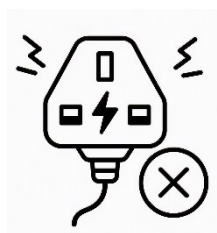


To sign up, [visit the Register My Appliance website.](#)

Warning!



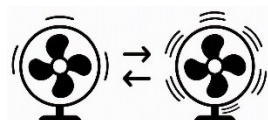
If your electrical item:



- Isn't working properly.



- Does not work all the time.



- Speeds up or down without warning.



- Feels too hot when you touch it.



- Has smoke coming from it.



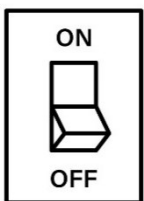
- Smells of burning.



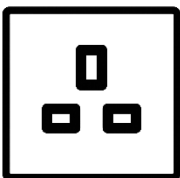
You MUST:



1. Stop using the item.



2. Turn it off.



3. Unplug it straight away.

Contact Trading Standards



If you have any worries about electrical products that are not safe, you can report them to Trading Standards via the Citizen's Advice Consumer Service.



Call the Citizen's Advice Consumer Service on 0808 223 1133.

Links in this document

Gov.uk product recall

gov.uk/guidance/product-recalls-and-alerts

Register My Appliance

registermyappliance.org.uk/

For the standard English web page version of this information, go to:

[Advice sheet – Second-hand electrical goods | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-community/trading-standards/leaflet-details?frmClient=AD684FAB-1185-6B25-FC3921E170E313B2&frmItemID=122653&frmShared=1>

[Advice sheet – electrical equipment | Nottinghamshire County Council](#)

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/business-community/trading-standards/leaflet-details?frmClient=AD684FAB-1185-6B25-FC3921E170E313B2&frmItemID=122652&frmShared=1>

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