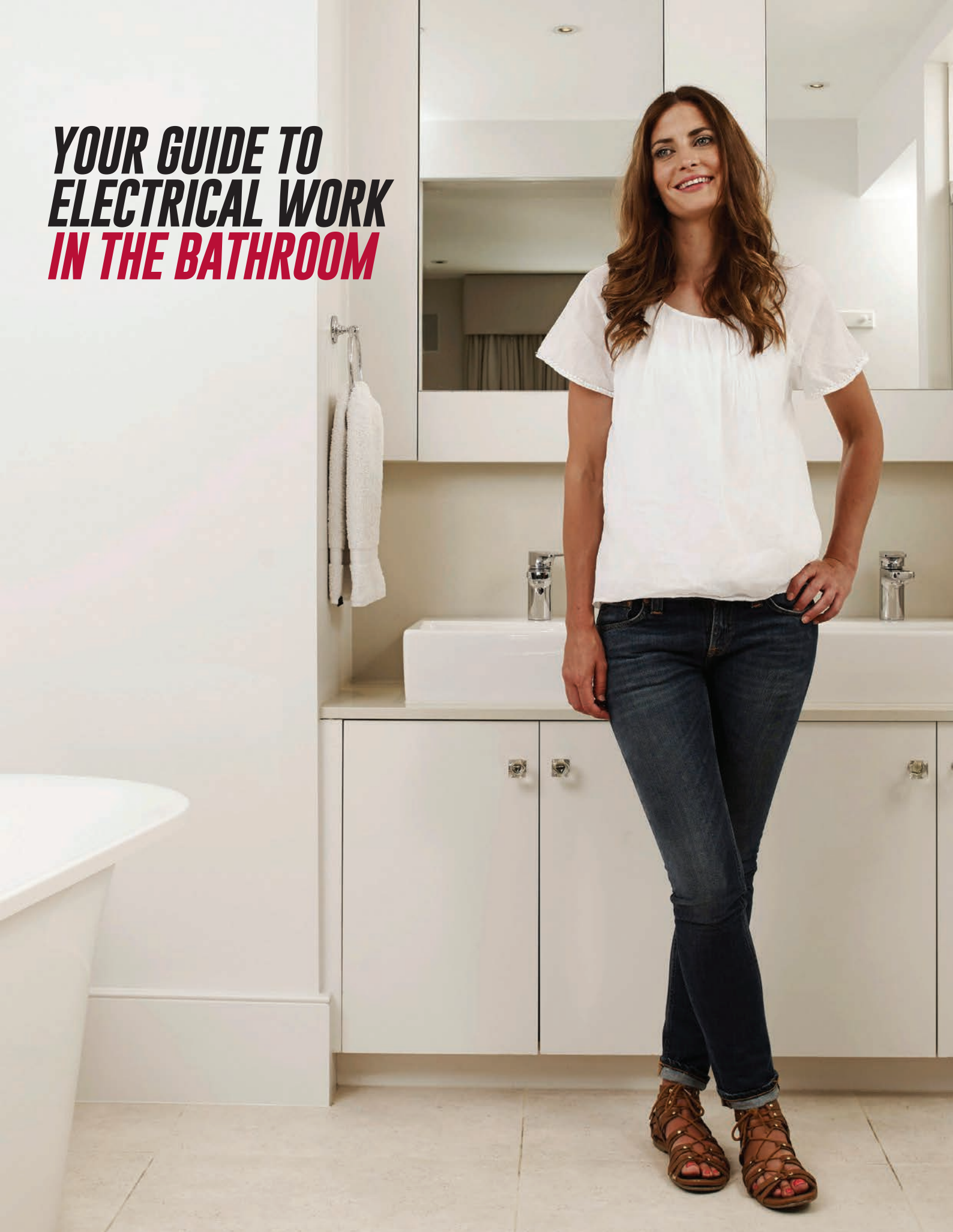


YOUR GUIDE TO ELECTRICAL WORK IN THE BATHROOM



THE POWER TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER



BATHROOMS ARE INCREASINGLY BECOMING AN IMPORTANT FEATURE OF ANY MODERN HOME.

As a relaxing sanctuary from busy life, they are getting bigger and better, with separate showers, oversized tubs, sauna rooms and even televisions.

However, water and electricity are a dangerous mix so when it comes to installing any electrical circuits or items, a bathroom is considered a special location.

This means that certain electrical work carried out in a bathroom must be notified and signed off by a local building control department so that it meets the appropriate safety standards.

The best way of meeting the requirements is to use an electrical contractor who is registered with a competent person scheme such as NICEIC. They can self-certify the work and notify the local building control department on your behalf.

Installing electrical equipment in a bathroom is about operating basic common sense, for example

- Buy electrical goods from reputable retailers (preferably from bathroom specialists)
- Ensure goods are suitable to be installed in a bathroom
- Make sure all cables and cords are suitable for bathroom use and are kept out of reach
- A shaver socket should be the only sockets considered in a bathroom

Use an electrical contractor registered with a government approved Part P scheme, such as an NICEIC electrical contractor to carry out the work as they can

- Self-certify and notify the work to building control on your behalf
- Ensure all circuits in your bathroom are RCD protected. An RCD (residual current device) works by switching off the flow of electricity when it detects a fault
- Make sure if installing an electric shower that it has its own electrical circuit
- Fix and permanently wire any electric or water heaters

Crucially, it is important to note that any electrical work in your bathroom should always be conducted by a professional. We know it may be tempting to have a go yourself. However the reality is it simply is not a risk worth taking and homeowners would be best placed to call on the services of a competent, certified professional to ensure the safety of their homes and families.

I want to fit a new bathroom. What do I need to know?

Due to the increased risk of water mixing with electricity the bathroom is potentially one of the most dangerous rooms in the home.

The chances of an electric shock occurring in the bathroom are increased and so due care must be taken when dealing with remedial or building work in this area.



It is vital that all work undertaken is carried out in accordance with the current wiring regulations to ensure maximum safety. The risk of injury or death from an electric shock is greater than the risk from using electrical equipment indoors

Speak to your local registered electrical contractor before any work to upgrade your bathroom commences, particularly if you are installing a new shower, lighting or heating system. They will be able to advise you of the appropriate steps that need to be taken and ensure the work is carried out to the highest standards. They can self-certify the work (if required) and notify the local building department on your behalf once the work is completed.

How do I know if my bathroom electrics are safe?

If there is noticeable damage to sockets, the shower or heating then it could be a sign that your electrics need checking. If you have any concerns regarding the electrics in your bathroom or home, then you should call a registered electrical contractor.



How can I get my bathroom checked for electrical safety?

You should contact your local NICEIC registered electrical contractor and ask them to carry out an electrical inspection (sometimes known as a periodic inspection).

Much like an MOT, this is an inspection of the current condition of an electrical installation in your home. On completion of the inspection, you will receive an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) detailing any damage, deterioration, defects, dangerous conditions and anything not in line with the present-day safety standard which might give rise to danger.

How often should this be carried out?

There is no regulation regarding how often an electrical inspection should be carried out for the general public. However, NICEIC recommend that an EICR is carried out every 10 years in a privately-owned home. For rented properties this will be subject to different regulations and may need carrying out every 5 years.

Why use an NICEIC registered contractor?

Choosing an NICEIC registered electrical contractor is a householder's best way to ensure a safe job. Electrical contractors registered with NICEIC are assessed on a regular basis to ensure high standards and their work is checked against the Wiring Regulations as well as other standards.



What happens if something goes wrong?



All NICEIC registered electrical contractors are covered by the Platinum Promise – a promise that protects you against all non-compliant installation work.

Should any work carried out by one of our contractors be found not to comply with the Building Regulations or relevant installation standards, we can instruct the contractor to go back and carry out the work to the required standard.

If the contractor is no longer in business or disputes the matter, we will have the work rectified by another registered contractor at no extra cost.

The Platinum Promise is valid for up to six years from the date of the completion of the original work and covers work up to a maximum of £25,000 for any one consumer rectification.



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