

***YOUR GUIDE TO
ELECTRICAL WORK
IN THE GARDEN***

THE POWER TO MAKE YOUR HOME SAFER



GARDENS AND GARDEN LIGHTING IN PARTICULAR ARE NOW JUST AS IMPORTANT TO MANY HOMEOWNERS AS THE INTERIOR OF THEIR HOME

Investing in new electrical equipment for the garden, such as lighting or water features -it is paramount that it is installed correctly and safely.

With temperatures on the up, it comes as no surprise that many people want to improve their garden spaces and make changes. However, the concern lies in that people may get carried away and attempt to dabble in potentially dangerous electrical work, without having the right skills and knowledge to install it correctly and safely.

Inherently, due to additional potentially hazardous elements such as adverse weather and associated 'wet products', such as hoses, sprinklers and paddling pools, the garden presents one of the biggest electrical safety hazards outside the home. According to research by the Electrical Safety First charity, 1 in 10 people in the UK have experienced an electric shock or accident while using an electrical equipment in the garden.



Using electrical equipment in the garden is about operating basic common sense, for example

- Buy electrical good from reputable retailers
 - Ensure goods are suitably weatherproof
 - Make sure all cables and cords are suitable for outdoor use and are kept out of reach
 - Placing water related products, such as hoses, sprinklers and paddling pools away from electrical equipment
- If you are thinking about installing new electrical equipment outdoors then use an electrical contractor registered with a government approved Part P scheme, such as an NICEIC Domestic Installer to carry out the work as they can
- self-certify and notify the work to building control on your behalf when required
 - Ensure your outside sockets and other equipment is RCD protected. An RCD (residual current device) works by switching off the flow of electricity when it detects a certain type of fault
 - Ensure that all cabling is buried at a sufficient depth to avoid damage from garden tools and the like
 - Ensure that cabling is suitable for outside installation and use
- Crucially, it is important to note that any electrical work in the garden should always be conducted by a professional. We know it may be tempting to have a go at installing, say, a new garden feature of some lighting. 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 install new lights in my garden. What do I need to know?

Due to the added risk posed by adverse weather the garden should be considered a high risk area when carrying out electrical work. It is vital that all work undertaken is carried out in accordance with the current Electrical Regulations to ensure maximum safety. The risk of injury or death from an electric shock could be greater than the risk from using electrical equipment indoors

Speak to your local NICEIC registered electrical contractor before any work to upgrade your garden commences. 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 will also be able to take care of the appropriate notification (if required) and certification once the work is completed.



How do I know if my garden electrics are safe?

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

How can I get my garden checked for electrical safety?

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

Whilst an inspection may be more commonly associated with the electrics inside a home, you can ask the registered contractor to have a look at any installations or circuits within the garden or outbuilding of a property.

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 Electrical Regulations 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 at least 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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