

## Convenience Self-Assessment

**No of socket outlets**  
(All socket outlets are twin)

Location	IEE Recommendation (Guidance note 1)	You have	You need
LOUNGE	6 to 10		
DINING	3		
KITCHEN	6 to 10		
DOUBLE BEDROOM	4 to 6		
SINGLE BEDROOM	4 to 6		
BEDSITTER	4		
HALL	2		
STAIRS/LANDING	1		
LOFT	1		
STUDY/HOME OFFICE	6		
GARAGE*	2		
UTILITY	2		

\* It is important that a 30 mA residual current device (RCD) protects this circuit.

## Safety Self-Assessment

Take a look around your home, ask yourself the following questions and tick the box if you answer "Yes" to any of them:

- Do your plugs and sockets get hot?
- Do you have round pin plugs or sockets?
- Do your fuses blow for no apparent reason?
- Do you use a lot of double or treble plug adapters?
- Do you use extension cables across or under carpets?
- Has electrical work been carried out by amateurs?
- Has it been longer than 10 years since your wiring was inspected?

If you ticked any of the boxes or need more sockets...

**CONTACT A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN**

ECA – 020 7313 4800

SELECT – 0131 445 5577

NICEIC – 020 7564 2323



# Is there a struggle for power in your home?



## Socket Scarcity

Most of us have, at some time, experienced electrical inconvenience. Whether you have an office fitted with IT equipment in your home or just have many electrical appliances, it is likely that you have had to buy extension leads or use adapters to cope with the demand. Trailing extension leads can be dangerous and overloaded sockets cause fires, damage to property, injury, or even death. In fact, the Fire Brigade recommends only one plug per socket (two per double).

House builders do comply with current NHBC guidance on the minimum number of socket outlets per room but these figures are a long way behind the practice in other countries. A recent survey on new homes showed that two out of three owners want additional sockets that are positioned more practically.

## New Recommendations from IEE

The Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE), responsible for setting the standards for wiring, has recently published recommendations on the provision of socket outlets in their 'Guidance Note 1'. These recommendations are based on information supplied to them by Copper Development Association, NHBC, Electrical Contractors' Association, Select and EIEMA and are given in the table overleaf.

## What can you do to make your home more appliance friendly?

- Make sure you have enough socket outlets in each room – see table on back cover.
- Two twin socket outlets should be located close to any TV aerial outlet to allow for TV, video, satellite etc.
- Bedrooms for children/teenagers should have enough socket outlets for computers and electronic equipment.
- One twin socket outlet should be near any telephone outlet for telephone, answerphone or fax equipment.
- If you have a home office don't forget to check with your contractor that your wiring complies with safety recommendations in BS 7671 (section 607).

## What are the risks?

- ⚡ There are 25+ electrical fires each day in UK homes
- ⚡ Fires are 16 times more likely to be caused by faulty electrics than, say, by gas
- ⚡ 2000+ people are injured through electrocution every year
- ⚡ Every week someone is killed by electrocution
- ⚡ The majority of deaths, injuries and damage would have been prevented by an installation inspection
- ⚡ Older properties (10+ years old) are most at risk

The danger is increased as faulty wiring is usually out-of-sight, under floor boards, behind walls.

By filling in the chart on the back cover you will be able to assess just how many extra sockets you need in your home. The check list below this will help you to identify potentially dangerous faults in your home. When you have completed both sections, contact your local approved, qualified electrician and ask for a free quotation. Don't forget to ask for a wiring inspection if your property hasn't been tested within the last ten years.

## Make your home a safer and more convenient place to live

- ✓ COMPLETE THE CONVENIENCE AND SAFETY SELF-ASSESSMENTS
- ✓ CONTACT A QUALIFIED ELECTRICIAN
- ✓ END THE STRUGGLE FOR POWER IN YOUR HOME.

### Copper Development Association

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Websites: [www.cda.org.uk](http://www.cda.org.uk) and [www.brass.org](http://www.brass.org)