

Electrical Safety

Practical skills

Cable colours, fuse ratings and the rules that are not negotiable.

UK and EU conventions. Always follow your local regulations; some work is legally restricted to qualified electricians.

Cable colours, current

Brown — live

Blue — neutral

Green/yellow — earth

Pre-2004 UK

Red — live

Black — neutral

Green — earth

Old and new mixed in one house is common — test, never assume

Plug fuses

3 A — up to 700 W: lamps, electronics

5 A — mid-range

13 A — over 700 W: kettles, heaters

Fit the smallest that runs the appliance

Non-negotiable

Isolate at the consumer unit, then test

One appliance per socket for high-power items

An RCD trip is a warning, not a nuisance

Water and electricity — never

Educational reference. In many countries fixed wiring must legally be done or certified by a qualified electrician.