

THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY SWITCHES

Each year, around 15 people are killed in preventable electrical accidents in Australian homes. Around 20 times that number are hospitalised with severe burns or other injuries. These deaths and injuries can almost certainly be prevented – with the flick of a switch.

Unfortunately, many Australians do not have the protection of safety switches on any of their electrical circuits. Some have protection on just their light and power circuits while very few people have protection on all circuits.

Every day activities such as hammering in a nail for a picture or using an electrical appliance can turn deadly in less time than it takes a heart to beat. You need a safety switch on every circuit to have maximum protection in your home.

Switch Thinking is about balancing the minor cost of installing safety switches against the trauma and devastation of losing someone you love. It's about ditching the "it will never happen to me" approach, and taking action to protect your family and friends.

A report commissioned by Master Electricians Australia in 2010 identified a deficit of around 26 million safety switches in Australian homes. This led Master Electricians Australia to develop the Switch Thinking campaign, to increase public awareness of safety switches and the need to install them on every circuit of the home for maximum protection.

Safety switches are designed to save lives. They detect the loss of current from a circuit that indicates a person is receiving an electric shock, and they cut the power in as little as 30 milliseconds.

Safety switches have been mandatory on the power outlet circuits of new homes since the early 1990s, and on the light and power circuits of new homes in most states since 2000. But many older homes do not have safety switches, and circuits such as air-conditioning, pool filters, hot water and stoves are not protected in most homes.

Don't let a tragedy happen in your house. Switch your thinking today.

A licensed electrician will need to install your safety switches to ensure your house is protected correctly.

Contact Nic at at NJB Electrical Services 0400 501 431 nic@njbelectrical.com.au

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