Safety switches save lives

Safety switches protect you, your family and anyone visiting your home from electric shock.

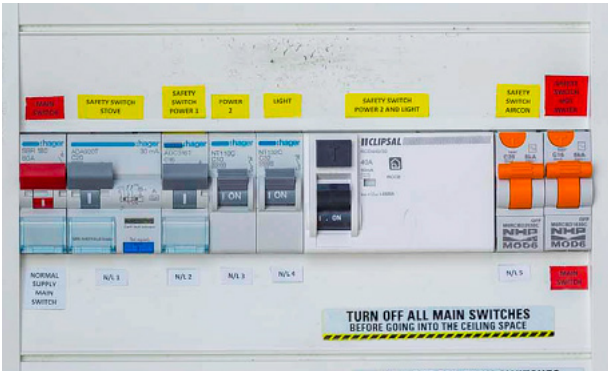
They turn off the power in a fraction of a second if a leakage of current is detected. This can happen if there is a faulty power point or electrical appliance, or you accidentally hit a live cable while drilling into a wall.

DELIVERING FOR QUEENSLAND

Queensland Government

How many safety switches do I need?

Even if your home has one safety switch installed, it may not be enough to protect you from electric shock. A safety switch only protects you if it's on that circuit. You should consider having safety switches installed on all circuits in your home, including power points, lights, air conditioning, oven, hot water and pool equipment circuits, even if they are on a separate tariff.



Know your safety switches

To see if you have safety switches installed at your home, look inside your switchboard for a 'Test' or 'T' button near the circuit breakers. The test buttons can be various colours and range in size and shape. They could also be labelled 'Safety switch', 'ELCB' or 'RCD'. If you are unsure, have a licensed electrical contractor check which circuits are protected.

Testing safety switches

Test your safety switches every **three months** to ensure they are working properly.

Follow these simple steps:

1. Let everyone know you are about to test your safety switches, especially if they're using a computer or recording something on TV—the testing process will cut power to those circuits connected to the safety switch.
2. At the switchboard, press the 'T' or 'Test' button located on the safety switch. If it flicks off and cuts the power, it is working. Check to see which lights or appliances are now off—these are protected by the safety switch.
3. After testing, turn the safety switch back on. Depending on the safety switch type, push it back upwards or twist it into the 'on' position. For circuits with a refrigerator or air conditioner, wait for two to three minutes before resetting to avoid possible appliance damage.
4. If the safety switch hasn't turned off, **call your licensed electrical contractor as soon as possible** to have the safety switch checked or replaced.

Place this sticker inside your electrical switchboard

Test your safety switches every three months

1. Alert everyone in your house you are about to test your safety switch.
2. Begin test by pressing the 'T' or 'Test' button on the safety switch.
3. Check if the safety switch turns off, then reset the safety switch to turn it back on.
4. Damaged safety switches that don't operate don't protect you. Call an electrician as soon as possible to have it replaced.

Scan for more information on safety switches and testing

Other home electrical safety tips

- ☑ You must, by law, turn off all the main power switches at the switchboard before entering a roof space.
- ☑ Regularly maintain your solar PV system.
- ☑ Look up and live—be aware of the overhead main powerline when cleaning gutters or carrying ladders.
- ☑ Check that insulation material in your roof is not covering electrical fittings, especially downlights.
- ☑ If you have a private power pole, regular maintenance can extend its structural life.
- ☑ Take care when using electrical equipment near a swimming pool or pond.
- ☑ Only use electrical equipment for its intended purpose.
- ☑ Never DIY electrical work.
  Always leave it to a licensed electrical contractor.

Check with a licensed electrical contractor to see if your home is safe

For more information visit:

electricalsafety.qld.gov.au
1300 362 128
electricalsafetyoffice

SC24/6744