

Power Board Safety

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Poor maintenance and incorrect use of power boards are a common cause of fires in the home. These fires endanger lives and can cause considerable damage to property. Most of these fires are accidental and preventable.

Follow these simple tips for using and maintaining power boards to help make your home safer from house fires.

Don't:

- Overload power boards by "piggy backing" plugs into one socket or by using double adaptors – all power boards have a maximum current rate
- Plug high wattage appliances (such as toasters, kettles and heaters) into power boards – plug them directly to permanent power points instead
- Use damaged, dirty or wet power boards
- Never use water to extinguish a fire caused by electrical equipment

Do:

- Use power boards with overload protection, as this will prevent it from overheating
- Only use power boards with built in safety switches/circuit breakers
- Place power boards on their sides to prevent dust build up in unused points
- Provide adequate ventilation around the power boards
- Regularly check that all plugs are firmly fixed in power boards
- Regularly check the power board for any signs of damage and degradation

Extension cords

- Use extension cords only as a temporary measure
- Do not connect a power board or double adaptor to the end of an extension lead to make it longer
- Never place extension leads under carpet or rugs as they may overheat
- Do not place extension leads near heaters and cookers
- Extension leads that are damaged or frayed should be thrown away or repaired by a licensed electrical contractor
- If using extension leads outdoors check them regularly for signs of damage
- Make sure they do not get caught or damaged by sharp objects while in use



Never use a double adaptor as they offer no overload protection.

In the event of a fire

- Crawl low under smoke
- Assist or alert any people in danger, but only if it is safe to do so
- Go to your safe meeting place, such as your letter box
- Call **000** (triple zero)
- Wait for firefighters to arrive
- Do not re-enter a burning house under any circumstances

For more information visit www.dfes.wa.gov.au or contact **DFES Community Engagement 9395 9816**

