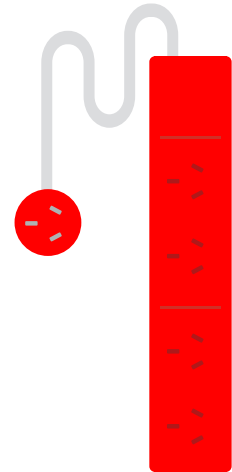


## The power of safety

In a perfect world you'd have enough plug points for your appliances and devices at home and in the office. More often than not however we need to use power boards – also known as multi-socket boards, multi-plugs or multi-boxes. If used correctly, power boards are safe. But that's not always the case. With this in mind, here's what 'correct use' looks like and how to help avoid fire, electric shock or device damage from overloaded, worn or damaged power boards.



### Talk to a sparky first

See whether your electrician can install extra plug points rather than using multiple boards as your permanent go-to.

### Guidelines for power protection

#### Stay in the ratings

Most power boards are rated to conduct 10 amps max (all appliances combined). Don't exceed this maximum. You should be able to see the rating label on your board. If you can't, don't use it.

#### Appliances

Power boards are for low current appliances only. Heavy current stuff like your stove, washing machine, heater, toaster or kettle (yes, even the small ones) must go straight into the wall socket.

#### Wear and tear

Position your power boards where they can't be trodden on or easily damaged. Check them for cracks and frayed or worn cables. If damaged, throw it into e-waste.

#### Shut off

Use power boards with an overload protection device. That way if the current going through the board exceeds its rating, the power will shut off straight away.

#### No piggybacking

Staying in the ratings also means not plugging another power board or double adaptor into a power board. It's not safe to have 6+ appliances in a 4-appliance only board.

#### Breathing space

Keep your power board well ventilated and away from flammables like bedding, towels, curtains, dusty build-up, and clothing that hasn't made its way into the laundry basket.

### Happy fit

Loose plugs can be a sign of poor connection. Plugs should sit securely in the socket outlet to minimise the risk of sparking or overheating.

### Trust your senses

If you touch the board and feel a tingle, or you can smell something that doesn't feel right, turn the power off at the wall and unplug the board.

### A closer look

Have an electrician undertake regular checks of extension leads and power boards. If you're needing any electrical work done, ask them to check them while they're there.

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