



Overloading is dangerous

Don't risk it

Follow our top Christmas safety tips which can be used all year round

- Always check that plugs, sockets and leads are undamaged
- Replace damaged extension leads
- Make sure that the extension lead plug contains the correctly rated fuse for the appliance you want to use
- Avoid tripping hazards. Position your extension lead in an appropriate place
- Avoid a fire and don't overheat! Never plug appliances into the extension lead if together they use more than 13 Amps or 3,000 Watts of power. This will overload the socket and could create a fire!

For more information on overloading, visit the Socket Overload Calculator at:

www.esc.org.uk/overloadingsockets



Plugs in the UK are generally fitted with either a 3A or 13A fuse. A 3A fuse is used for appliances that use up to 700W of electricity and a 13A fuse is used for appliances that use over 700W of electricity. See the tables for examples:

Appliances protected by a 3A fuse

Lamp
Television
DVD player
Computer
Fridge
Freezer
Radio
Power drill

3A

Appliances protected by a 13A fuse

Washing machine
Kettle
Toaster
Iron
Dishwasher
Microwave
Hair Dryer
Vacuum cleaner

13A



Most UK extension leads have a maximum capacity of 13A, therefore it is important to remember not to exceed this amount with the electrical products you are plugging into the extension socket. Broadly speaking, nothing in the right hand column of the table should be used in conjunction with anything else in an extension lead.

It is also important to never use adaptors plugged into other adaptors.

For more information on overloading, visit the Socket Overload Calculator at:

www.esc.org.uk/overloadingsockets