

Energy Safety

Using Electricity Safely in Caravans
and Tents



Department of Consumer
and Employment Protection
Government of Western Australia

Using Electricity Safely in Caravans and Tents

“Roughing it” no longer has to be part of the caravanning and camping scene. Toasters, freezers, television sets and other electrical appliances can be taken on holidays to make them much more enjoyable.

But beware! Electricity needs to be treated with extra caution in caravans and tents.



For caravans...

Connecting to electricity supply

Power is available to caravan and camper vans at sites by connecting a supply extension lead from a socket outlet at an on-site connection facility to an inlet socket fitted on the van.

- The supply extension lead must be one continuous length and be rated at 15 amperes. The lead should also be between 3 and 15 metres long.
- The lead should also be secured to the tie bar at the site connection facility. Ensure the lead does not cross vehicle tracks or block access ways.
- Worn or damaged leads should be repaired or replaced.
- Always fully uncoil leads before using them.

- Only one lead shall be connected to each socket outlet at the on-site connection facility.
- There must be a separate lead for each inlet socket on the van.
- Double adaptors must not be used to connect supply leads into the on-site connection facility.

Is your caravan safe?

- The caravan must be wired to Australian New Zealand Standard AS/NZS 3001 by an electrical contractor. A Caravan Installation Test Certificate (sticker) should be attached to the caravan to show that it meets the safety standards.
- When connecting to the caravan park site facility, check that the socket outlet has a safety switch.

CARAVAN INSTALLATION TEST CERTIFICATE	
<small>The electrical installation of this caravan was checked on the date shown. Checks and tests confirmed the installation complied with AS 3001 - Electrical Installations in Movable Premises (Caravans) and is safe to connect to electricity supply.</small>	
CARAVAN AND INSTALLATION DETAILS	
Make	No. of Inlet Sockets
Chassis No.	Lights
Reg No.	Plug Sockets
Contractor Name	Other Equipment
Contractor Licence No	
I certify that I have checked and tested the electrical installation of this caravan and at the time of testing the installation complied with AS 3001.	
Name	Signature
	Date
<small>Certificate supplied by Energy Safety for use by licensed electrical contractors.</small>	
c 006151	DO NOT DEFACE OR REMOVE THIS CERTIFICATE
	<small>TSD E005 09/96</small>

For tents...

Connecting to electricity supply

- Supply extension leads need to meet the requirements as outlined for caravans.
- If the on-site connection point does not have safety switch protection for the outlets, it is recommended that a portable safety switch be used to supply the tents.
- Electricity supply must not be obtained from another tent having a different occupier or situated on another site.

Connecting electrical equipment in a tent

- If there is more than one appliance to be connected in the tent, use an approved portable socket outlet box. Place the outlet box on a rigid support in a dry and protected position.
- If possible, switch the power off at night or when electricity is not being used.

Is your electrical equipment safe to connect?

There are additional hazards for campers in tents. The combined factors of electricity and damp areas (such as grass, canvas etc.) are potentially fatal.

- Ensure that electrical appliances are of an approved type and are sufficiently robust for the harsh conditions that may be encountered whilst travelling and camping.
- Light fittings should be of durable and insulated construction with protection against lamp breakages.
- Keep appliance leads and extension leads out of the way. Leads trailing around in a tent are dangerous, especially for children.

What should I do if I receive an electric shock?

Despite all the precautions we take, faults can occur in electrical wiring, appliances and equipment that cause electric shocks or damage to property. If you receive an electric shock or property is damaged (even if it is only minor) due to an electrical incident:

- STOP using the appliance, or keep away from whatever gave you an electric shock; and
- report the electric shock by telephoning your local supply authority (such as Western Power on 13 13 51) **and** Energy Safety on our 24-hour Freecall number 1800 678 198.

Regulations require all cases of electric shock and damage to property from electrical incidents to be reported so that the cause of the shock/damage can be investigated and corrected. Unreported minor shocks can lead to electrocution (death).





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Consumer Protection Advice Line 1300 30 40 54

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays

Wageline 1300 65 52 66

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays except Wednesday 9.00am-5.00pm

WorkSafe 9327 8777

8.30am-5.00pm weekdays

This booklet is available in alternative formats such as large type, computer disk and Braille. If you require the services of an interpreter, contact the Translating and Interpreting Services (TIS) on 131 450 and ask for connection to Labour Relations 1300 304 054 or WorkSafe 9327 8777.

The Department of Consumer and Employment Protection also has regional offices in Karratha, Geraldton, Kalgoorlie, Bunbury and Albany.

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