

Aug 2019 News Letter

Faulty appliances cause '60 fires a week' - Which (consumer group)
Electrical faults lead to 8,000 house fires every year. More than 15% of all domestic fires in England and Wales with appliance breakdowns and broken cables some of the leading causes of these catastrophes (247homerescue.co.uk)
It is easy to see why, however it is also easy to prevent.
By putting in place the following checks you can keep your home, church and workplace safe.



As you can see from the photo, this extension lead has significant burn damage to it. I am sure many of you have never checked your extension leads which are under your desk right now...have you? With an appliance plugged into this lead, you would probably never know the damage being caused and the catastrophic effect it could have.

But Precision Safety Services already check our appliances; do we need to do this?

That is correct; we have our qualified engineers carry your Portable Appliance Testing annually. We encourage visual checks to be carried out before usage.

The main reason is that damage can occur at any time throughout the year and you could be using a faulty appliance until we come back for the next visit.

Electrical Safety

How can we visually check our appliances?

A visual inspection can be done in form of a look at the plug, cable and connection to the appliance before plugging it in to use.

You are looking for any signs of damage; burn marks, cuts, scuffs, breaks or anything that could weaken the cable, the appliance casing or the plug.

Any damage could cause significant injuries, shocks or be the start of a fire.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call us on 08000 24 11 24

Leaning and step ladders continue to be a worry!

Ladders are a valuable tool in so many areas of a Church and its associated buildings. We recognise you need ladders to do a variety of tasks. In fact, they can be a sensible and practical option for low-risk, short duration tasks.

However, did you know that falls from ladders are the most common accidents in the country? Last year there were 40 deaths and thousands of significant injuries, and 10s of thousands minor injuries resulting from falls from ladders. And 25% of these were over 60 years old. Are any of your volunteers in this age group?

Some policies to consider implementing:

- Permission will not be granted unless the person is deemed competent to use the ladder. Competence can be demonstrated through a variety of means including practical and theoretical knowledge, training and experience.
- Permission will not be granted unless that ladder is the most appropriate equipment to access the height where work is to be carried out, the work is low risk, and of less than 30 minutes duration.
- No person will work up a ladder unless a second person is supervising/ helping, and the ladder has been checked to ensure it is undamaged and fit for purpose.
- Ladders will be secured to prevent unauthorised access and use.

We often feel that everyone is competent to use a ladder. After all, they are simple and basic to use, aren't they? Well if they were, there would not be as many accidents as there are each year. Do you know how far is safe to lean out from a ladder? What is the best angle to lean a ladder? Have you seen people carrying things with 2 hands up or down a ladder? If so, how were they holding on to support themselves whilst doing so? There is basic guidance on the HSE website, and Precision can help too, but we cannot just assume everyone will use a ladder safely unless we check.

Myth: HSE still bans this, that and the other



Call Precision today for any questions you may have
08000 24 11 24