

Personal Electrical Equipment

Northumbria University requires that any portable electrical appliance (e.g. TV/audio equipment, IT or cooking/domestic equipment) that is brought onto its property does not present a danger to its employees or any other persons who are living at or visit its sites. This area is covered by UK law in Regulation 4(2) of the Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 which says 'As may be necessary to prevent danger, all systems shall be maintained so far as to prevent, so far as reasonably practicable, such danger'.

Electrical items supplied by the university are tested by competent persons to ensure that they do not present any danger to users; items covered include kettles, vacuum cleaners, desk lamps and any item provided by the university that has an electrical plug fitted.

The university does not require that personal items brought to the hall by residents be tested to the same standard. However, the university does require that electrical items introduced to the hall by residents do not present a danger. Regular room inspections are conducted and any items, which are found to be unsafe, in the opinion of the inspector, may be removed without notice. In extreme cases disciplinary action may be taken against the owner of the appliance.

The following information is designed to assist residents in identifying a potentially unsafe item and/or item(s) that are liable to be confiscated by the university;

The Item Itself

Ideally this should be fitted with a 3-pin moulded plug (if the item is relatively new it is likely to have this), rather than a plug that has been fitted by its user. The plug should be free from damage and, if the plug is not moulded, the outer covering of the cable should be gripped where it enters the plug (the coloured wires inside the outer covering should not be visible).



The cable of the appliance should be free from damage, cuts or abrasions (apart from light scuffing) and should not have any non-standard joints (e.g. taping).



There should be no damage to the outer cover of the equipment or obvious loose parts or screws.

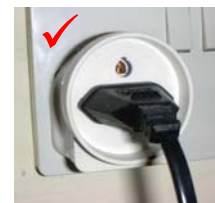
Extension Leads & Multi-Plugs

Because of dangers associated with overloading, the use of extension leads and multi-plugs is discouraged and appliances should be unplugged when not in use. If multi-plugs are used then they should be of the 'fused' type. The use of wall-mounted adaptors should be avoided because of the danger of damage to the wall sockets caused by the weight of a "tree" of adaptor(s) and plugs. If an adaptor is required, a fused strip adaptor should be obtained (see image). In addition high-rated appliances (e.g. kettles, irons, heaters) should be operated using a single socket and not via a multi-plug adapter.



Items Brought From Overseas

All items bought in the UK should be fitted with a standard 3-pin plug that fits directly into our domestic 3-pin wall sockets. Often appliances brought from overseas are fitted with 2-pin moulded plugs and such items should be connected to the electricity supply via an adapter, which converts the 2-pin arrangement into a 3-pin one. These adapters can be purchased from most high street electrical retailers.



If You Require Further Advice

If you are in doubt about the safety of any item please contact your House Manager before using the appliance.