

# MAKE YOUR HOME

■ With the onslaught of the hot season, the number of fire accidents in the UAE is likely to increase, say experts ■ Following simple safety rules will help you predict and avoid potential electrical hazards

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### VITAL ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS TO FOLLOW

**1** Check all wall plugs and connections. Before you get off on your holiday, check the health of cables, plugs and connections. If there is overheating, a burning smell or smoking, seek help from a qualified electrician.

**2** Replace damaged components. Replace cracked, frayed, loose or bare wires and loose connections if they can cause a serious electrical fire, spark, which can result in fire, flash or a lost electrical load. Check for fraying and repair or re-wire.

**3** Some electrical outlets are not grounded throughout the year, such as in air conditioning and window air conditioning. Do a mandatory check of these outlets here. Ensure there is no overheating.

**4** It is good to know about the condition of your building. The work pits of your building are the first in the event of any electrical fault. Tell your electrician to measure the pit resistance and take necessary action to ensure low resistance following local regulations. People living in tall towers can install elevators to check the pits periodically. Having well-known brand appliances is not sufficient as on-site good protection against electrical faults. Before installing new appliances, electricians should ensure the elevators have the correct safety and the electrical circuit is connected to a proper working system.

**Expert David Fasing**

In the hot months (May), experts are highlighting the importance of safe electrical practices inside homes. This, they say, is when the number of fire accidents rises dramatically across the UAE, and many of these are caused by avoidable mistakes.

"Many of these incidents can be attributed to ignorance surrounding electrical safety," says David Fasing, the technical director of David Thomas, a company specialising in wiring systems.

"People tend to commit simple mistakes

due to casual attitudes or ignorance to electrical safety, faulty connections and the overloading of plug sockets that can lead to big accidents."

Rashtech company has recently partnered with Dubai Electricity and Water Authority (DEWA) and consumer education centre Envy Energy to launch a "Safe Home Zones" initiative to educate homeowners across the Emirate of the possible consequences of ignorance surrounding electrical safety.

"The aim of the campaign is to educate the public on what to look out for and any necessary repair control activities," he says. "It is not uncommon

for working pits to dry up in less than three months due to high summer temperatures. During these months, older residential buildings loaded with high density living are most at risk as a single spark can spread rapidly and cause significant damage to assets and lives."

Through "Safe Home Zones" set up at select Deira centres and Envy Digital Home stores, clients will display safety information and collect information which the authorities will use to develop a fully integrated plan for safety in the home, says Fasing.

The expert shares his home safety tips for Emirate Business readers.



# SUMMER SAFE



**5** Stop recharging mobile phones. It's time to check whether plug sockets or extension cables are overloaded or not. Remove unnecessary connections if it is possible. Especially in the bedrooms and in the kitchen, do not overload the wires. Electrical appliances are not mobile. Make sure you do not overload these or other personal plug into a two-pronged outlet or extension cord.

**6** Keep appliances dry and away from water at all times. Keep electrical appliances far away from the bathroom in a safe place. No electrical plug should be used in a water pipe before leaving.

**7** Covering your electrical outlets. All electrical outlets and switches should be covered by "capsules". This can stop insect or vermin and flooding inside your electrical circuit. With this you also ensure that children in the home are safe. Flicking or touching lights and switches, sparks from appliances or outlets, and wet plugs, plugs or cords that are warm to the touch are signs of potential danger areas that could cause fire.

**8** Unplug all appliances including kitchen appliances such as toasters, irons and coffee makers before leaving for a holiday. Unplug TV decoders cables for protection against lightning strikes.

**9** In tall towers you can install an electrical safety and electrical equipment for protection.

**10** Make sure all switches are turned off at all positions, including the main switch when you leave for long-term protection in a state. This can protect the electrical circuit of your appliances from external damage.

