

Study and read the information below and answer the questions

Unit 6 Safety with electricity

Electricity can be very dangerous. The amount of electricity running through the mains supply can cause your body to heat up and burn badly. It might even kill you.

Illegal electrical connections to the mains supply are a very big problem in South Africa. This is stealing electricity. It causes Eskom to lose billions of rand every year. Illegal connections are dangerous and can cause and spread fire.

Houses that have electricity should have a properly installed

supply.



Illegal electrical connections in an informal settlement in Cape Town



Keywords

electrical box: the box from which electricity is distributed throughout the house or building

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The electrical box has a series of switches. This is where the electricity is directed to different parts of the house, such as to the lights, stove, geyser and sockets. It is also fitted with safety precautions to prevent accidents that cause injury and damage. For example, if there is a problem with the sockets, the switch for the lights will trip, cutting all the electricity going to the lights. If this happens, it means there is a problem which needs to be fixed in order to prevent fire or injury. Every switch on a mains board should be clearly labelled.

Lightning is very dangerous and you should try not to be outside during an electrical storm. Lightning is a massive bolt of electricity with enough electrical energy to toast 100 000 pieces of bread! Lightning can set trees on fire and can kill people and animals if they are struck directly.



An electrical box

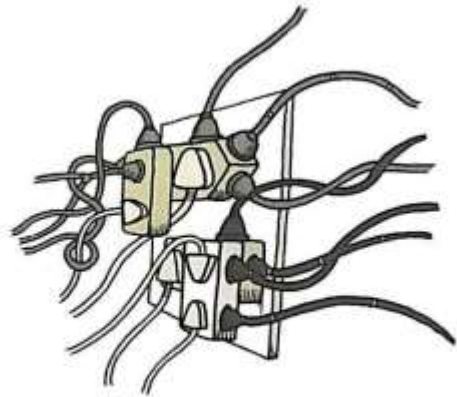
Water and electricity do not mix – water conducts electricity, so if an appliance is wet, do not use it. Electrical appliances must not be used in the bathroom.



Safety tips for using electricity



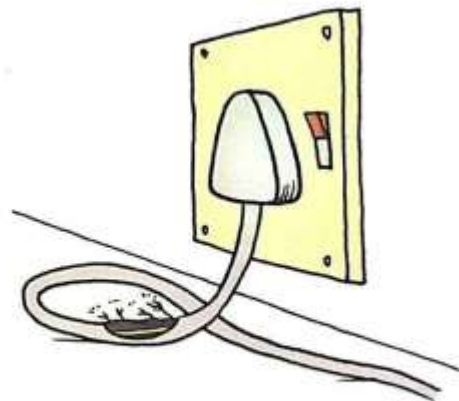
Never put your fingers or a metal object directly into an electrical appliance or socket.



Do not overload sockets. This can cause the electricity to 'trip' or can start a fire.



Stay indoors during an electrical storm and never take shelter under a tree.



Do not use an electrical appliance with exposed wires.

Answers Question 1

1. The box from which the electricity is distributed throughout the house or building
2. Do not put your fingers or a metal object directly into an electrical appliance or socket.
 - Do not overload sockets.
 - Do not hide or take shelter under a tree during an electrical storm
 - Stay inside your house during an electrical storm
 - Do not use an electrical appliance with exposed wires.
 - Do not use electrical appliances in wet conditions