Every year,

15 people

are killed in Australian homes in electrical accidents that **could have been prevented** if safety switches had been installed.

As many as

20 times

that number are hospitalised with **serious injuries** and **burns**.

The cause of these incidents may be as simple as a child removing toast from a toaster with a knife, a home handyman drilling a hole in a wall to hang a picture, or storm water penetration in to light fittings and powerpoints.

Mothers, fathers, children – gone in an instant.

The greatest tragedy is that these deaths could have been easily prevented – with the flick of a switch.

Take the time to call your local Master Electrician and talk about safety switches in your home or rental property.

Your local Master Electrician is:

Phone:

Email:

MASTER ELECTRICIANS AUSTRALIA

Master Electricians Australia
t: 1300 889 198
e: info@masterelectricians.com.au
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0713 00221

SWITCH THINKING

protecting every precious life

Find out how safety switches could save a life.

MASTER ELECTRICIANS AUSTRALIA

Lead.Connect.

SWITCH THINKING
protecting every precious life

Why do I need safety switches?

Every year, people die from electrocution. A safety switch is intended to operate at a speed which will turn the electricity off before electrocution occurs. The speed is less than one heart beat.

The technology is widely available, relatively cheap and has been commonplace in Australian homes for around 20 years in which time it has contributed to a significant reduction in electrical fatalities.

Independent research, commissioned by Master Electricians Australia, indicates 80 per cent of home owners believe they are well protected by safety switches, when in fact only 60 per cent are partially protected. This means there are over 40 per cent of people who are not protected at all.

What is the difference between safety switches, circuit breakers and surge protectors?

Safety Switch

Surge Protector

Circuit Breaker

Safety switches protect people from electrocution.

Circuit breakers protect electrical cables and fittings from becoming overloaded and ending up as electrical fires.

Surge protectors are used to safeguard appliances against a spike in electrical current caused by a lightning strike or other external event.

How many safety switches do I need?

To be completely protected, it is recommended that ALL circuits in ALL homes be retrofitted with safety switches.

Safety switches have been mandatory on the power outlet circuits of new homes since the early 1990s.

Currently, the law in most states requires safety switches to be installed on the light and power circuits in new homes.

Any electrical circuit that is unprotected can be potentially fatal including power points, lights, stove, hot water system, pool or air conditioner. It is important to note that all three fatalities under the 2010 Home Insulation Program would have survived if there was a safety switch installed on every circuit.

Would you
risk the chance of **losing a loved one** for the sake of a few hundred dollars?

How long will a safety switch last?

Under the current Australian standard, a safety switch is manufactured to last for a minimum of 4,000 operational tests. We encourage home owners to test their switches every three months and unless there is a significant problem with a device, they should last a lifetime.

How reliable are safety switches?

In Australia, under each state and territory's Electricity Act, a safety switch is a declared article. This means that a manufacturer must submit a formal test report on the operational characteristics of the safety switch. This report is then compared to the Australian standard for compliance. Once satisfied, an approval is then issued. This approval must be marked on the product and is then able to be sold.

Do I have to 'test' safety switches?

Safety switches need to be tested regularly to ensure the mechanism works freely. Testing should be done every three months.

As a guide, you should test them when you receive your electricity account. To test the safety switch it is really easy, simply push the button marked 'T' or 'test'. The safety switch should trip and reset by closing, job done. Be aware that some appliances will need to be reset after this test, such as clock radios.

What happens if I cannot reset the safety switch?

This may mean that there is an inherent fault on the circuit and will therefore need the expertise of an electrician to inspect and repair this situation.

The Switch Thinking campaign is about balancing the **minor cost** of **installing safety switches** against the trauma and devastation of **losing someone you love**.

It's about ditching the "it will never happen to me" approach, and **taking action** to protect your family and friends. Don't let a tragedy happen in your house. **Switch your thinking today.**