



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Commerce**  
Energy**Safety**

**Enquiries:** Electrical Inspection 9422 5261

To the Householder or Premises Owner

Dear Sir or Madam

RCDs (Safety Switches)

I write to draw your attention to the importance of installing RCDs (also known as safety switches) in your home or rental property. I am very keen to see every Western Australian home equipped with these vital safety devices.

You will be familiar with the usual circuit breakers and fuses in your switchboard. They protect against overloading and short circuits. They will not protect you against electrocution.

The amount of current needed to kill you is far too little to cause a fuse to blow or a circuit breaker to operate.

The only device able to protect you from electrocution is an RCD.

To protect your home you need:

- circuit breakers or fuses to interrupt the current flow if you connect too many appliances to a circuit or a short circuit occurs; and
- at least two RCDs to prevent electrocution. You need two to avoid sudden total darkness in your home if an RCD operates.

RCDs also protect against fires which can start from small leakages of current from wires with damaged or perished insulation.

If you are selling or renting your home you must install at least two RCDs (if not already fitted) before the property title is transferred or a new tenancy agreement is made. RCDs must be installed in all rental homes by 8 August 2011.

Any licensed electrical contractor can supply and fit the RCDs in the main switchboard of your house. They will be happy to give you a no-obligation price quotation.

These devices save lives and prevent fires. They are a must in any home.

Yours sincerely

Ken Bowron  
**Director of Energy Safety**

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