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Safety first with DIY projects this Easter

Essential Energy is encouraging customers to perform some do-it-yourself (DIY) safety checks before undertaking any home improvement projects this Easter long weekend.

General Manager Safety, HR and Environment, David Nardi, said, "A few simple safety checks prior to undertaking home repairs or renovations can minimise the risk of electrical accidents."

"Before you get in and get the jobs done around the house this Easter, be aware of the location of service lines and electrical wiring within your work space. Don't cut, drill or hammer into walls, floors or ceilings before thoroughly checking for electrical wires."

"Safety switches – such as Residual Current Devices or Earth Leakage Circuit Breakers – should also be fitted in all homes and workshops to minimise electric shock risks."

Essential Energy advises employing a qualified electrician for all jobs involving electrical wiring.

"If you are using power tools, check that the cords and connections are free of wear and tear and don't use them in wet areas," David said. "If you need to use extension leads, keep these to a minimum, and make sure not to overload power boards."

"In the event of a suspected electrical shock, do not attempt to touch the person until the power has been disconnected. Provide first aid when it is safe to do so and always seek medical attention afterwards."

Switching off rechargeable appliances and removing power boards or device chargers from power outlets can reduce electrical safety risks and save on household electricity bills.

"There were seven deaths recorded in NSW in 2015-16 involving customers' installations, appliances or equipment* so the main priority for any DIY job should be safety first," David added.

For more information on electrical safety, visit essentialenergy.com.au/safety or call Essential Energy on **13 23 91**.

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**([2015-2016 Electrical Fatal Incident Data report for Australia and New Zealand](#), Electrical Regulatory Authorities Council)*

Essential Energy is the operator of Australia's largest electricity network spanning 95 per cent of New South Wales' land mass. Owned by the New South Wales Government, Essential Energy also provides water and sewerage services to customers in far western New South Wales.