

Client Help Sheet

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Consumer units/fuse boards



OLD



VERY OLD

"It's been like this for the last 50 years and I have never had any problems."

If I had one pound for every time I heard someone say that, I would be a very rich man.

Because something is working it doesn't mean it's also safe.

As time goes on, new technologies are being introduced, a great example of this would be L.E.D lighting being more commonplace in our homes. Another great example is the growing demand of hot tubs, which include electronic PCB boards that definitely were not around years ago.

Now while this is great that we are evolving, bringing new tech into your home when you have old fashioned circuit protection may present a hazard without you even realizing. What was considered best 20 years ago now is obsolete and in a few instances even unsafe. Take the use of asbestos for instance.

So why you should consider replacing your old fuse board with a new 18th Edition one?

To be honest, no one can or should force you to replace your old fuse board only because it's old. There are a combination of things that may lead to a must have replacement and can be only determined by ordering a safety report (EICR). An experienced and qualified electrician can however, quite accurately judge something like this by a visual inspection of your home. But even if everything looks, and is, fine, there are still some good reasons to why you should consider upgrading your old fuse board. Turn to the opposite side to find out.

D.L.R TOP TIP!!

R.C.D protection- An R.C.D's main purpose in life is to protect you and your loved ones from electrical faults. It can also detect faults on your electrical appliances that an old fuse board wouldn't.

Surge Protection Devices (SPDs)- What the SPD does is to protect all your electrical devices in the case an excess amount of electricity (surge) introduced into your electrical installation, most commonly after lighting strikes in the area.

Arc Fault Detection Devices (AFDD'S)- This is the newest form of circuit protection introduced in the United Kingdom, although this technology has been available in other countries for some time. As the name suggests, this technology shuts off the supply if it detects arcing between electrical conductors, offering great protection against fire risks! At the time I write this, the AFDD is a recommendation and not a mandatory component in the consumer unit, although this may change in the future.

Dom Robinson

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While it's a great and worthwhile investment to have an up to date consumer unit protecting your electrical installation, the truth is (in certain circumstances), an older consumer unit **CAN STILL** provide adequate protection.

Yes- I am also including rewirable fuses into the above statement!!!

If you have an older fuse board in your home, its best to seek the opinion of a competent electrician as to what would be best for your current set up. The electrician can tell you what you may or may not require by just a visual inspection of your current fuse board.

GOLDEN RULE: EVERY SINGLE ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION IS DIFFERENT AND MAY REQUIRE A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT APPROACH TO WHAT A NEIGHBOUR MAY HAVE INSTALLED.



Dom Robinson is a qualified electrician with over 10 years experience in the electrical industry. Dom owns and runs D.L.R Electrical, who specializes in **domestic electrical** installations. Having qualified in 2013, he holds a range of testing and installation qualifications

D.L.R Electrical is based in Cambridge and serves Cambridge and the surrounding areas. Please visit our Web Page at www.dlrelectrical.com for more information



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