

POWER TALK

THE POWER ON ELECTRIX NEWS LETTER



RCD FACTS & CONCERNS

It is estimated that less than 25% of pre 2000 dwellings have not been voluntarily fitted with RCDs.

Concerns also arise with;

Pre 1960's homes are mostly wired with VIR (Vulcanised India Rubber) insulated cables, a known safety risk since the 1980's. Ceiling spaces for example, whereby the wires are exposed to high temperatures, the insulation becomes brittle and can result in exposed live wires.

Western Australia prior to the 1980's also allowed cabling joints in accessible ceiling spaces to be made without suitable enclosure. This also presents serious risk of electrical shock to persons including trades persons entering ceiling spaces.

RCD's will play a large part in reducing the risk of injury to persons who come into contact with previous bad electrical practice.



WHAT CAN YOU DO

It is recommended that all property owner occupiers or managers of dwellings built pre the year 2000 to take account of the new proposed legislation.

We advise that all parties concerned investigate doubts by using qualified electrical expertise for safe analysis and to provide an opportunity to act on it.

Specialist smoke alarm & RCD installation packages are available at Power On Electrix.

Ask for the **ACT NOW** Brochure.

LIGHTER SIDE

Thomas Alva Edison (February 11, 1847 – October 18, 1931) was an American inventor and businessman who invented and developed devices such as the phonograph and the electric light bulb, holding 1,093 U.S. patents in his name.

Ironically, during the whole of his life, Edison received only three months of formal schooling, and was dismissed from school as being retarded.

IT'S OFFICIAL RCD REGULATIONS INTO EFFECT AUGUST THIS YEAR

New Legislation will be introduced on 8th August requiring owners of residential properties to have at least two Residual Current Devices installed protecting all power and light circuits in accordance to wiring rules.

1. Prior to the transfer of the land title,
2. Prior into entering a tenancy agreement with a new tenant,
3. Prior to making it available for rent,
4. Within 24 months of the legislation coming into force.

For details of this legislation visit www.commerce.wa.gov.au and type **RCD LEGISLATION** in the search box.



2-Pole Residual current device



WHAT IS AN RCD (SAFETY SWITCH)

Safety switch is a general name for a Residual Current Device (RCD) or earth leakage circuit breaker. These safety switches, RCDs are electrical safety devices specially designed to immediately switch the electricity OFF when electricity 'leaks' to earth at a level harmful to a human. These devices offer a high level of personal protection from electric shock.

WILL FUSES OR OVER CURRENT CIRCUIT BREAKERS DO THE SAME?

No! Circuit breakers and fuses provide equipment and/or installation protection and operate only in response to an electrical overload or short-circuit when high fault currents flow. Short circuit flow to earth via your installation's earthing system causes either the circuit breaker to trip or fuse to blow, disconnecting the electricity from the faulty circuit.

However, if the electrical resistance in the earth fault current path is too high to allow a circuit breaker to trip (or fuse to blow), then electricity can continue to flow to earth for an extended time, creating dangerous voltages and currents. Safety switches (with or without an over current device) can detect a very low level of electricity flowing to earth and immediately switch the electricity off.

NEW SMOKE ALARM LEGISLATIONS



Proposed amendments to building regulations will require hard wired smoke alarms to be installed in all residential buildings, including rental properties before they can be sold or re-leased.

According to the Department of Building Codes and Regulations, the proposed hard wired smoke alarm legislation is schedule to come into effect from 1st October.

