

What happens when a safety switch operates?

If a safety switch operates (disconnects the power), the problem could be a faulty appliance. Reset the safety switch – if it operates again, disconnect the last used appliance. If everything now functions properly, do not use the appliance until it has been checked by a licensed electrical contractor.

If the safety switch continues to trip, disconnect all appliances and plug them in one at a time until you locate the faulty one. **Avoid touching appliances while carrying out this process.** If you continue to have problems, contact your licensed electrical contractor.

Is a safety switch failsafe?

Nothing is failsafe. You should regularly check your safety switch because, just like a smoke detector or any other safety device, if it is not operating properly it cannot protect you. Although a safety switch gives additional protection, it is important that all appliances, electrical wiring, extension leads and other electrical equipment be regularly checked and maintained in good working order.

WARNING:

Safety Switches protect against shocks from current passing through the body to earth which is the most frequent cause of electrocution.

Complete protection under all circumstances is not possible from these or any other devices.

How do I test my safety switch?

To check that your safety switch is working properly, press the "test" button (which simulates a problem). This should automatically operate the safety switch to OFF and you then simply reset it. You should do this at regular intervals.

If the test button does not make the safety switch operate, you should call your licensed electrical contractor.

Safety switches save lives!

For further information, contact:



**Queensland
Government**
Department of
Industrial Relations

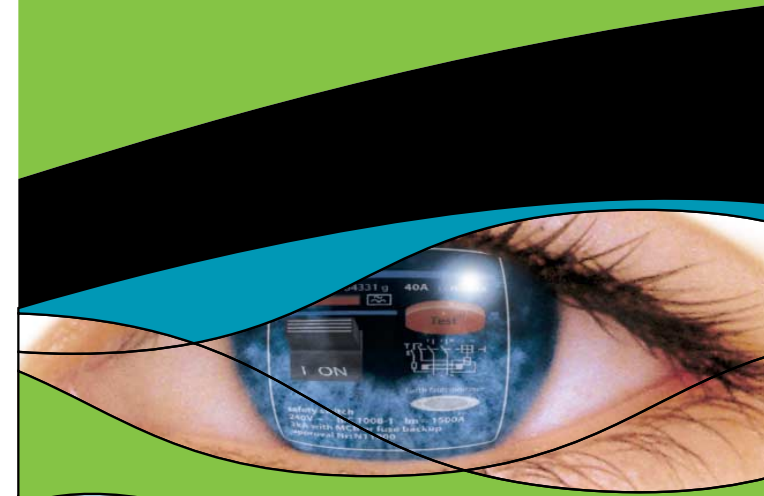
Electrical Safety Office

1300 650 662

www.eso.qld.gov.au

Department of Industrial Relations

Safety Switches Save Lives

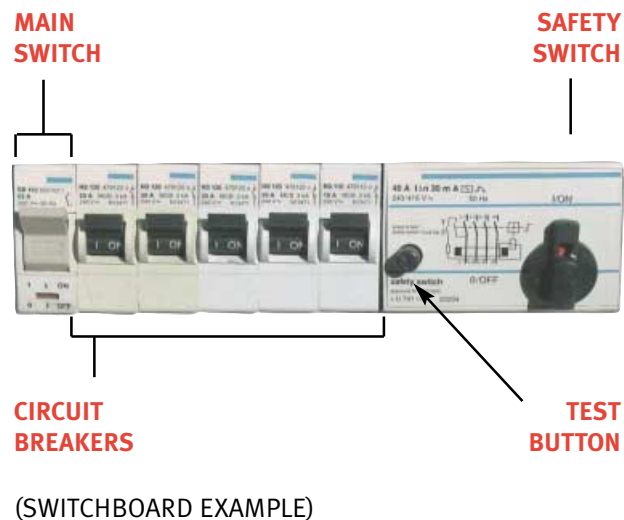


Protect your family from electrocution

A safety switch installed in your switchboard by a licensed electrical contractor can safeguard you against a tragedy in your home. It is designed to immediately switch power off when electricity is detected leaking to earth at a level that could be harmful.

Is your home already protected?

Many Queensland homes already have a safety switch installed. In fact, safety switches have been compulsory in all new homes since July 1992. You can check your switchboard for a safety switch by looking for a test/reset button or by asking your electrical contractor.



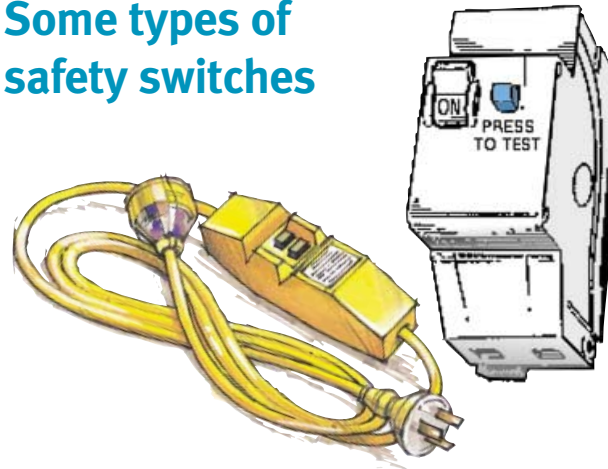
Why you need a safety switch

Electricity can cause potentially dangerous situations in your home. Some of the things that could lead to electrical accidents are: a faulty appliance/power tool, damage to electrical cable, lack of maintenance and unsafe practices.

How safety switches work

Safety switches are designed to provide increased protection from electrical shock resulting from a fault in electrical appliances, circuit wiring or misuse of electrical equipment. Should a fault cause current to flow to earth, perhaps through a person, the safety switch can sense this and will cut off power instantly, possibly preventing a tragedy.

Some types of safety switches



REMEMBER: Having a safety switch installed in your home or workplace by a licensed electrical contractor is good insurance against electrical shocks.

The standard switchboard safety switch offers comprehensive protection by monitoring not only electrical appliances but also fixed wiring. This type of safety switch must be installed on power point and light circuits in new homes in Queensland.

Within three months of domestic premises being sold or otherwise transferred, the new owner must ensure that all power point circuits have safety switch protection.

The portable safety switch

is ideal for use inside and outdoors for portable equipment such as power tools. It is designed for use by tradespeople as well as around the home. It provides good safety protection where permanent safety switch protection is not available.



Don't confuse with circuit breakers and fuses

Safety switches do not replace proper electrical maintenance and safe practices nor are they substitutes for circuit breakers or fuses. A safety switch is an additional form of protection to be used with these items.



(EXAMPLE OF CIRCUIT BREAKERS)