

When to Rewire: Home Wiring Health Checklist

Warning signs that home wiring is ageing and due for replacement.

House wiring does not last forever. Insulation hardens and cracks with age and heat, and older homes were never wired for today's ACs, geysers and EV chargers. Use this checklist to judge whether it is time to rewire.

Warning signs

- Switches, sockets or plug tops that feel **warm** or make a **buzzing** sound.
- Lights that **flicker or dim** when a heavy appliance switches on.
- A faint **burning or plastic smell**, or discoloured/scorched socket faces.
- **Frequent MCB trips** or blown fuses.
- **Too few socket points**, so extension boards are used everywhere.

Age & type

- Wiring **older than about 25–30 years**, especially if never upgraded.
- Old **aluminium** house wiring, or wiring with **no proper earthing**.
- Rubber-insulated or brittle, cracking insulation.

If several of these apply, have a licensed electrician inspect the installation and quote for a rewire with modern fire-safe, correctly-sized cable and an updated distribution board.