

Portable heating tools and similar appliances

Safe use advice for portable electric heating tools and similar appliances with a rated voltage of not more than 250V.

Appliances not intended for normal household use, but which nevertheless may be a source of danger to the public—such as appliances for use by lay persons in shops, light industry and on farms—are covered by this advice.

Examples of these appliances:

- soldering irons
- de-soldering irons
- soldering guns
- conduit soldering tools
- thermoplastic conduit-welding tools
- household film welding appliances
- plastic cutting tools
- branding tools
- burning-in pens
- stripping pliers
- glue guns
- dehorning tools
- paint strippers
- fire lighters
- heat guns.

This advice is not intended to replace specific manufacturer's information but can be used as a general guide.

This advice does not cater for young children or people who are physically weak.

When using the appliances:

- If the appliance has a separate stand and does not incorporate a biased-off switch, the tool must be placed on its stand when not in use.

For heat guns and hand-held paint strippers, the following care should be taken:

- Note that a fire may start if the appliance is not used with care.
- Be careful when using the appliance in places where there are combustible materials.
- Do not apply the appliance to the same place for a long time.
- Do not use it in an explosive atmosphere.
- Heat may be conducted to combustible materials that are not visible.
- Place the appliance on its stand after use and allow cooling before storage.
- Do not leave the appliance unattended when in use.

When using fire lighters, the following care should be taken:

- Ensure that the fire lighter is properly positioned.
- Unplug before removal from the fire.
- Allow cooling before storage.
- Do not allow the hot parts of the fire lighter to touch the cord or other flammable materials.

When using thermoplastic conduit-welding tools, a welding operation must not be repeated on a fitting since this can result in live parts becoming accessible.

You are urged to:

- Use the appliance only for its intended purpose.
- If the appliance is for indoor use only, do not use outdoors.
- Do not immerse the appliance in water unless it is designed for this purpose.
- Keep hands, fingers, feet, toes and hair away from dangerous moving parts, cutting blades and the like.
- Do not use electrical appliances in the rain.
- Make sure you have dry hands when operating an electrical appliance.
- Do not use a damaged appliance.
- An appliance may not be intended for use by children or people with an illness or disability without supervision.
- Young children should not be allowed to play with the appliance.
- Some appliances require special precautions for installation or user maintenance or both.
- The plug must be removed from the socket-outlet before any cleaning or maintenance is done.
- Do not place cord extension sockets or portable power outlet boards where they may be splashed or where moisture may get in.
- Ensure ventilation holes or outlets are not blocked or partially obstructed.
- If a fixed appliance does not have a supply cord and plug or other means for disconnection from the supply, a means for disconnection must be incorporated into the fixed wiring according to the Wiring Rules.
- If the supply cord or plug is damaged:
 - The manufacturer or its service agent or a similarly qualified person must replace the cord to prevent an accident.
 - Appliances with specially prepared cords must be replaced by a special cord or assembly available from the manufacturer or its service agent.
 - Other appliances that have a supply cord that cannot be replaced, should be scrapped.
- The appliance should be maintained in order to ensure a long, useful life and to protect the operator against electric shock or mechanical mishaps.
- A safety switch can enhance electrical safety when using electrical appliances