

# MEDIA RELEASE

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## House fires spark concern for electrical safety

Home owners are being urged to conduct safety checks of their electrical connections and cords, following a recent spate of house fires in Melbourne.

Master Electricians CEO Malcolm Richards said while several factors could cause a house fire, there were a number of precautions home owners could take to reduce the risk of a tragedy.

“Overloaded power points, faulty extension cords, piggy-backed double adapters and incorrectly installed appliances all have the potential to spark a fire,” Mr Richards said.

“Home owners can reduce their risk by ensuring they do not install multiple power boards or double adapters on a single power point.

“It’s also important to ensure a good connection between an electrical plug and a power point, as loose connections can overheat and spark a blaze.”

Mr Richards’ comments follow a series of fires in the Melbourne suburbs of Maribyrnong, Narre Warren South, Black Rock, and Chirnside Park in recent months,

He said home owners should also check the condition of electrical cords, and replace any that have been damaged or become frayed over time.

And while most people were aware of the importance of smoke detectors, Mr Richards also urged home owners to consider a safety switch as a key defence against fire.

“If a power point in your home does overload, your best defence is a safety switch,” he said.

“If you don’t have a safety switch, have a Master Electrician install one. And remember to test it every three months.

“And if you have any doubts about the safety of an electrical appliance or fitting in your home or workplace, call a Master Electrician.

“Master Electricians are accredited to provide the highest standards of safety and customer service. They provide a 12-month guarantee on all workmanship.”

To find a Master Electrician, visit [www.masterelectricians.com.au](http://www.masterelectricians.com.au) or call 1300 889 198.

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### Electrical safety tips

- Check connections of all leads. Power cords should sit flush with the power point when plugged in
- Check leads for any damage
- Only use one power board per power point
- Don't use double adaptors or piggyback plugs
- All electrical work should be performed by a Master Electrician or licensed contractor.