

# Media release

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## Insulation scheme prompts timely fire safety warning

Home owners are being urged to be fire conscious as they take up the Federal Government's home insulation rebate in coming months.

The rebate scheme is expected to generate significant demand for home insulation, prompting Master Electricians Australia to warn of the dangers of using shonky or inexperienced installers.

Master Electricians chief executive officer Malcolm Richards said incorrectly installed insulation created a very serious fire risk, especially in older homes.

"Residents should check that their insulation providers understand the fire danger and how to install the insulation safely," Mr Richards said.

"House fires can easily start in ceilings where insulation is installed too close to light fittings. The heat from ceiling lights cannot escape if insulation is laid incorrectly, and ceiling dust and debris can then spark a fire."

Dichroic and low voltage lights were the most dangerous as they generate the most heat. Mr Richards said providers should be working around existing electrical infrastructure, being careful not to disrupt it as they lay the insulation.

"The most important thing is that the installers keep a good separation between the light fittings and the insulation. There have been examples of older houses being burnt down because insulation has been installed after an electrician has safely installed the lighting.

"If residents are not sure the insulation has been installed correctly they should contact a Master Electrician who can check the configuration of the insulation and lighting in their ceilings is electrically sound."

The Homeowner Insulation Program will be rolled out from July 1, 2009 providing up to \$1600 for insulation installation.

"Those homeowners planning on claiming the rebate should not cut costs when choosing an insulation provider but instead select a quality and skilled tradesman."

Master Electricians are all experienced electrical contractors who complete a stringent, annual safety and quality audit, adhere to a code of practice, and offer customers a 12-month guarantee on their work.

For more information visit [www.masterelectricians.com.au](http://www.masterelectricians.com.au).

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