

# Media release



Friday 18 September, 2009

## Safety switch best protection as electrical dangers heat up

West Australian residents are being urged to check their homes for a working safety switch to protect their families from electrical dangers this summer.

If a safety switch is not installed, home owners should have a Master Electrician install one immediately.

Master Electricians Australia chief executive officer Malcolm Richards said a safety switch was a relatively cheap and highly effective way of protecting your family from electrical accidents.

“When current leaks from a circuit it will find the fastest path to earth. During an electrical shock, electricity leaves a secure circuit and flows through the body to earth.

“A safety switch detects the difference or loss in current from the circuit and disconnects the power. This trip occurs in 300 milliseconds, minimising the risk of electrocution or fire.”

Mr Richards cautioned residents not to confuse safety switches with circuit breakers.

“Safety switches save lives, whereas circuit breakers are only designed to protect electrical equipment.

“If you have a safety switch installed, you can test it to check whether it is working properly and would trip and cut power to the home if required.

“Residents can push the test button which should cut the power to the house. This test should be performed every six months,” Mr Richards said.

“If the safety switch fails during this test, residents should have a Master Electrician inspect the home.”

Some residents may be unsure of whether the electrical work performed in their home is of a high enough standard to protect their family.

Mr Richards said using a Master Electrician gave families peace of mind, as Master Electricians were accredited to provide the highest levels of service and quality, and must offer a 12-month warranty on their labour.

“If a resident has a Master Electrician install a safety switch, they should feel confident their family is safe.

“A Master Electrician must demonstrate the highest levels of electrical safety skills, and must comply with a strict code of professional conduct which is enforced by Master Electricians Australia.

Visit [www.masterelectricians.com.au](http://www.masterelectricians.com.au) for more information.

**Media inquiries: David Melloy, Executive Manager Marketing on 1300 889 198.**