









Electric blankets - Fire safety at home. If you – or a family member – uses an electric blanket to keep warm in bed, here's how to reduce the fire risks.







Using your electric blanket safely

Though electric blankets can be a great, cost-effective way to keep warm and cosy, it's important to use them with care. Before putting your electric blanket on the bed to use over the winter months, take a few minutes to check that the blanket is safe for continued use.

Your blanket should be replaced with a new one if:

-  Fabric is worn or frayed.
-  Scorch marks are visible on the fabric
-  Wires are poking through the fabric.
-  There is damage to any part of the electrical cord.
-  The control buttons are making a buzzing sound when switched on and/or is giving off a smell.
-  The connector fitted to the blanket is damaged or over-heating.

Follow our 6 top tips

-  Unplug blankets before you get into bed, unless it has a thermostat control for safe all-night use.
-  Never use an electric blanket if you have an air flow pressure relief mattress, or use emollient creams.
-  Never use a hot water bottle at the same time as using your electric blanket.
-  Do not buy second-hand electric blankets.
-  Remember to check regularly for wear and tear and replace at least every 10 years.
-  Store electric blankets flat, rolled up or loosely folded, to prevent damaging the internal wiring. Don't place heavy objects on top when storing.

Worried about energy costs?

If you – or a family member – is using an electric blanket because you're struggling with the costs of energy bills, it's worth knowing that there is a lot of help available. Citizens Advice provides lots of info about grants and benefits to help you pay your energy bills or you can contact your energy company for advice.