

Blankets, pads and similar appliances

Safe use advice for electric blankets, pads and other flexible appliances that heat the bed or human body and are intended for household and similar use. These appliance should have a rated voltage of not more than 250V.

This advice also applies to control units supplied with the appliance.

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:

- Do not use flexible appliances when folded.
- Do not use rucked;
- Do not insert pins;
- Do not use with a helpless person, an infant or someone insensitive to heat;
- Overlong application at high setting can result in skin burns.
- **WARNING** - when using a heat pad, make sure you do not fall asleep.

Electric blankets and heat pads should be stored as follows:

- Avoid creasing the appliance.
- Examine the appliance often for signs of wear or damage. If there are signs or if the appliance has been misused, return it to the supplier without delay.

Instructions for using electric blankets:

- Do not tuck in.
- Do not use on an adjustable bed, or if used on an adjustable bed, check that the blanket or cord cannot become trapped or rucked.
- An electric blanket is not to be used by young children unless a parent or guardian has preset the controls or unless the child has been adequately instructed in how to operate the controls safely.
- Appliances that do not operate should be returned to the manufacturer or agent or disposed of safely.

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