



Are you being left in the dark?

Electrical issues that every business should consider

Electrics can be a tricky and confusing subject for the small business, but is essential to the day to day running of a office. There is more and more legislation that both tenants and Landlords should be aware of in the commercial world. So what can you do to make sure that you're not left in the dark?

Even the smallest office can benefit from good electrical practice. dx|electrica have put together 7 bright suggestions for the smaller business:-

- 1. Lighting Schemes** – some lighting schemes are now becoming obsolete as more and more energy efficiency lighting becomes available. Although T5 fluorescent lamps may be more expensive to purchase the high output outweighs the cost of standard lamps. New lighting systems can also reduce your energy usage by up to 40%.
- 2. Energy Saving Products** – The demand for more energy efficiency products has meant that controls have reduced in size and cost. These will save money and energy within the office. A time clock on a water boiler and PIR (Passive Infra Red) sensors. The PIR system works on a occupancy sensor and together with daylight dimming can be a great saving to an office environment. Eco Cubes for fridges saves energy by using its temperature switch gauge.
- 3. Regular Inspections** – ensure that your Landlord has an electrical landlord certificate for your distribution board. Electrical Systems should be checked annually and Landlord certificates need to be updated every 5 years and should comply with the IEE regulations.
- 4. PAT testing** - Having your electrical equipment tested is vital to you and your employees safety. Faulty equipment could start a fire. To avoid doubt have your appliances PAT tested every six months. Any new installations should also be tested by a competent qualified electrician.
- 5. Data and Voice** – VOIP (Voice Over Internet Protocol) which is used through server technologies can save money on phone bills. Newly refurbished office can use floor boxes and wall trunking to reduce the use of extension cables and overloading outlets.
- 6. Use good quality materials and products** – Although all cable may look the same they can differ in price and quality. Try and ensure that the products and materials used are of a good quality; as this will last longer and be more efficient. You can look out for the EU ratings and standards.
- 7. Associated Trade Bodies** – if you are thinking about having electrical work carried out, look for a company that carries a trade association badge. Trade associations such as the ECA, work with companies that have been tested to a high standard and will comply with regulations and good practices. Choosing someone with this recognition will provide