

DO I NEED TO REPLACE MY FUSEBOARD ?



"It's been like this for the last 50 years and never had any problems."

This is something I have listened to countless times from my clients with dated electrical installations.

Because something is working it doesn't mean it's also safe. Your old fuse board might have been the flagship on electrical safety when it was first installed but technology and industry standards are constantly changing for sole reason to keep people safe and sound. What was considered best 20 years ago now is obsolete and in a few occasions even unsafe.

Take the use of asbestos for instance. Sometimes there are no issues purely because the fuse board is not operating properly and no one will know about it until things go really wrong and someone suffers an electric shock and in some occasions can even lead to death.

So why should you consider replacing your old fuse board with a new 18th Edition one?

To be honest, no one can or should force you to replace your old fuse board only because it's old. There are a combination of things that may lead to a must have replacement and can be only determined by ordering a safety report (EICR). Although, an experienced and qualified electrician can quite accurately judge something like this by only visually inspecting your home.

But even if everything looks and is fine there are still some good reasons to why you should consider upgrading your old fuse board.

Neill Jenkins is a qualified electrician with over 25 Years in the Electrical and Telecommunications industry, Neill owns and runs Jenkins Electrical Maintenance Services, who specialise in domestic electrical installations, in particular, Fault finding & Upgrades. He holds a wide range of qualifications from Electronics & Communications, Electrical Installation Through to Electrical Testing, Electrical Vehicle Testing & Smart home systems.

Jenkins Electrical MS is based in Southampton and serves the Southampton, Hampshire & New Forest Areas. Please visit our webpage for more info or we can be found at: YOUTUBE, FACEBOOK, INSTAGRAM & TWITTER

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Your old fuse board might have been the best that could be offered back in the day but it was only meant to protect the cables installed in your home and not people. Your new fuse board (consumer unit) Will come with RCD protection, which has only one purpose in life, to protect you and your loved ones from when things go wrong with electricity. It can also detect faults on your electrical appliances that the old fuse board couldn't.

With the introduction of the 18th Edition of the electrical regulations in 2019 the bar on electrical safety went even higher.

Where before a single RCD was protecting a number of circuits now in order to ensure everything goes off in the right time every circuit needs to have its own separate RCD protection with the use of RCBOs.



We also had the introduction of Surge Protection Devices (SPDs). What the SPD does is to protect all your electrical devices (Phones, Tablets, Laptops & modern appliances with sensitive electronics in them) in a case of an excess amount of electricity introduced into your electrical installation, most commonly after a lightning strike in the area, But this can also be caused through faulty appliances with any form of motor.

If you are selling your home, there is also an increasing number of surveyors that will fail their survey if your home still has an outdated fuse board.

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