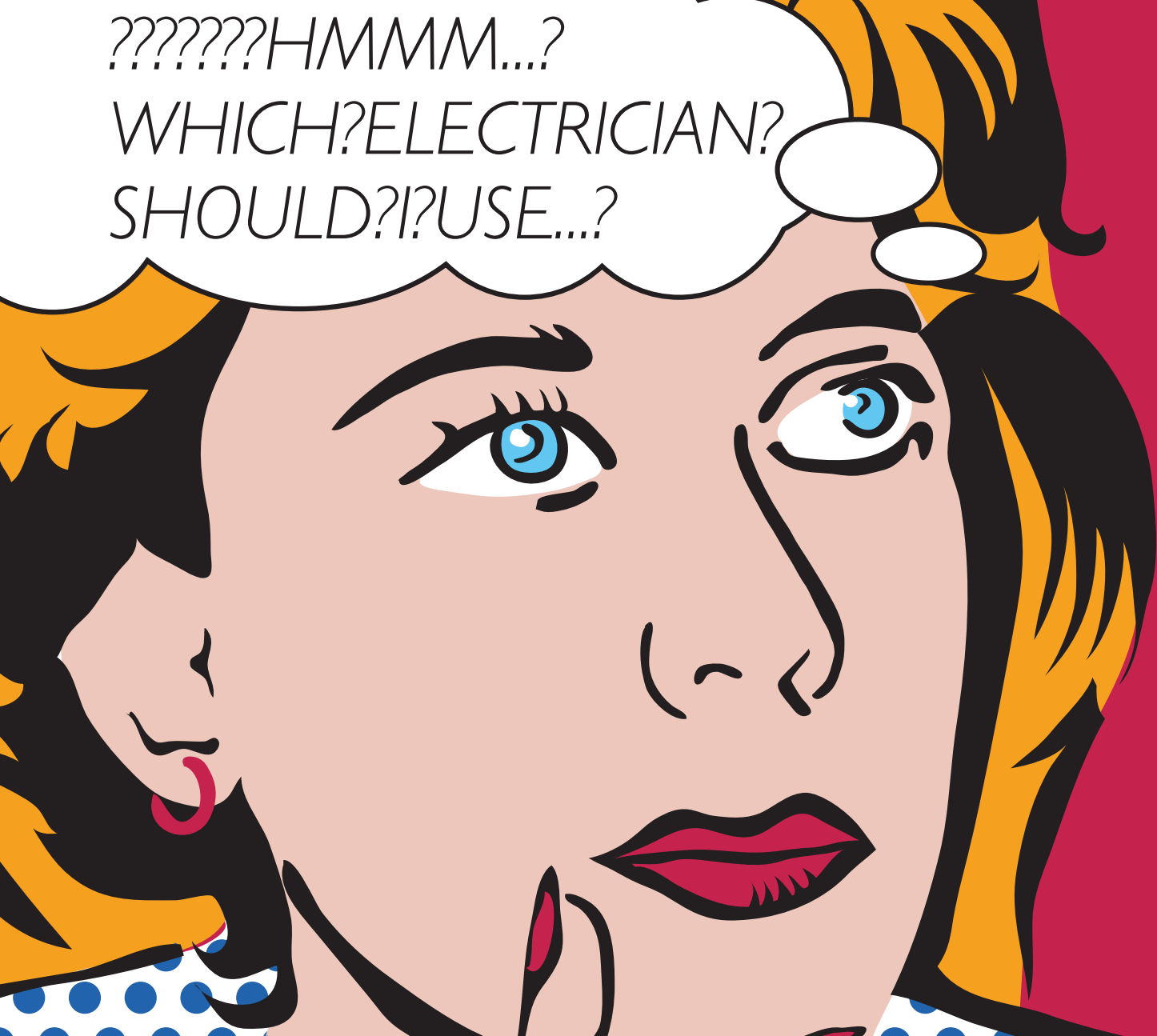
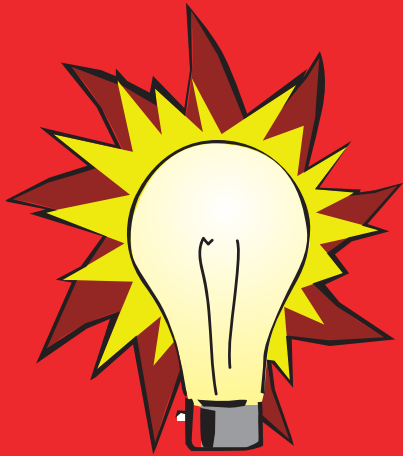


????????HMMM....?

WHICH?ELECTRICIAN?
SHOULD?I?USE....?



Look for the symbol of safety 



Electricity...

It's the key to modern living - a necessity that we would find impossible to live without. We can't see it, but its effects can be felt all around us.

As a silent contributor to our daily lives, electricity provides light and warmth, and powers our electrical appliances. Electricity is power itself - used for the ultimate good but something that, if treated carelessly, can be acutely dangerous. With so much of our daily lives dependent on electricity, it's easy to forget that electricity is a potentially lethal force.

Did you know that about 12,500 fires a year are reported as having an electrical source, including faulty or inadequate wiring? A large proportion of such fires could be avoided if electrical installations were occasionally checked by a competent electrical contractor. Because cables, switches, socket-outlets and other equipment deteriorate with prolonged use, they all need to be checked and necessary replacements or repairs made in good time.

Electrical Safety Law

In January 2005, the Government introduced a new electrical safety requirement into the Building Regulations for England and Wales. It is now a legal requirement to ensure that certain types of fixed electrical installation work carried out in dwellings (houses, flats, pubs) comply with Building Regulations.

Further information can be found on www.niceic.org.uk or www.odpm.gov.uk.

Find an electrician at www.niceic.org.uk

Who is the NICEIC?



The National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting (NICEIC) is an independent consumer safety organization. A consumer-focused body, the NICEIC has been the electrical contracting industry's voluntary regulatory body for electrical safety matters for more than 48 years. It is not a trade association.

The NICEIC is a non-profit making registered charity - an independent body that consumers can trust. Because the NICEIC offers unparalleled impartiality and an authoritative voice on all issues related to electrical installations, it's supported by all sectors of the electrical and construction industries as well as professional health and safety bodies. A number of Government Departments have observers on the National Inspection Board.

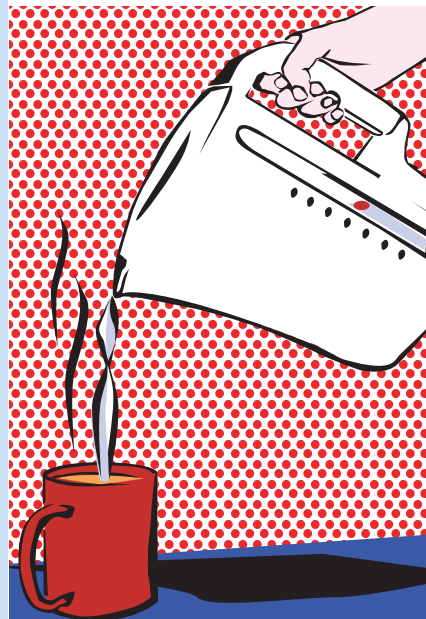
What is the NICEIC's mission?

- ▶ Our aim is to protect everyone who uses electricity from unsafe electrical installations in their homes, places of work and leisure. The NICEIC puts your safety first.

How does the NICEIC do this?

- ▶ The NICEIC maintains a register (Roll) of electrical contractors and other businesses involved in electrical work, that it has assessed as complying with national safety standards. The assessment covers a representative sample of the contractors' electrical work and the competence of their key supervisory staff. Once contractors become NICEIC Approved Contractors or Domestic Installers, they are re-assessed every year to confirm that the technical standard of their electrical work continues to comply with national safety standards.

Enrolment with the NICEIC is voluntary - however, electrical contractors that are competent and conscientious about the service they offer customers would consider it a priority to enrol.



► So, how do I find an NICEIC Approved Contractor or a Domestic Installer?

It's easy! Firstly, there are more than 11,000 Approved Contractors and Domestic Installers on the Roll, covering the whole of the UK including Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands. This means that you're sure to have a choice in your area.

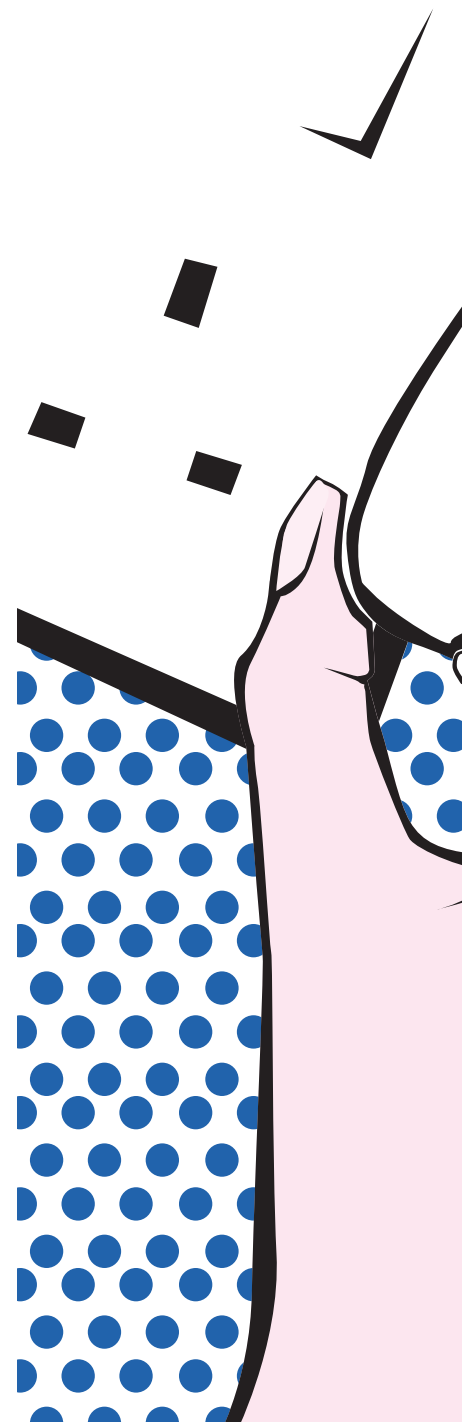
Approved Contractors and Domestic Installers can often be identified by the very recognizable NICEIC logo being displayed on their company stationery and vehicles. They also tend to display the NICEIC logo in their advertisements, found in Yellow Pages, Thomson Directories and local newspapers.

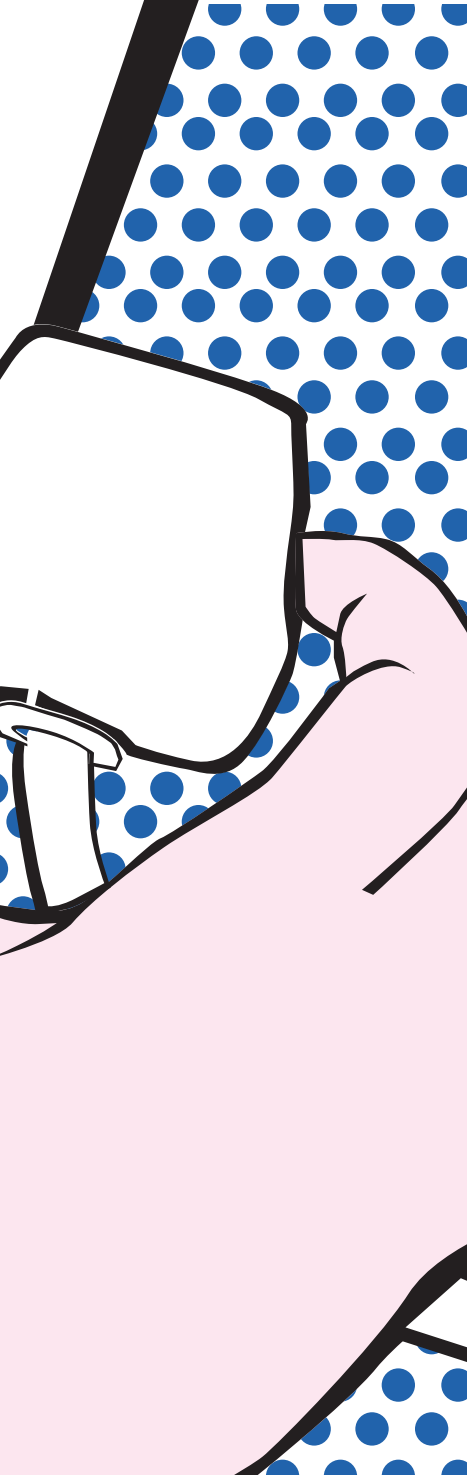
Alternatively, you can find an Approved Contractor or Domestic Installer in your area by searching the up-to-date Roll on the NICEIC website - www.niceic.org.uk.

Whilst all NICEIC Approved Contractors and Domestic Installers have been assessed as being able to meet national safety standards, consumers are advised to check to their own satisfaction that a contractor they select to undertake work is able to meet their particular requirements.

Does it really matter who carries out my electrical work?

- **Yes it does.** It's imperative that electrical work is carried out only by persons who are competent. Competent persons are those having the necessary knowledge, skill and experience of the type of electrical work to be undertaken to enable them to avoid the dangers to themselves and others that electricity can create. It's easy to make an electrical circuit work - it's far more demanding to make the circuit work safely. Safety for you in your home is paramount; therefore the NICEIC strongly recommends that you choose an Approved Contractor, Domestic Installer or other registered electrician to carry out your electrical work.





What is the NICEIC's technical standard?

- ▶ The NICEIC's technical standard is based on the national standard for the safety of electrical installations, **British Standard BS 7671**: Requirements for electrical installations (also known as the IEE Wiring Regulations). Approved Contractors and Domestic Installers must also comply with the electrical safety requirements of any other applicable British Standard Codes of Practice, such as those for fire alarms and emergency lighting.

Should I receive a certificate or report on completion of the work?

- ▶ **Yes you should.** For all work carried out in accordance with the national standard BS 7671, the issuing of an appropriate certificate or report to the person ordering the work is not an option.

Any electrical contractor constructing a new electrical installation, or altering or adding to an existing electrical installation, should issue an Electrical Installation Certificate, which is a safety declaration confirming that their work complies with the national safety standard.

An electrical contractor reporting on the condition of an existing electrical installation should issue a Periodic Inspection Report detailing their findings and providing recommendations for any remedial work found to be necessary.

If your electrical contractor fails to give you an appropriate certificate or report, ask for one. The certificate or report should be fully completed and signed. The NICEIC makes standard forms available to both Approved Contractors and Domestic Installers for this purpose. Details of what you should expect to receive are given on the NICEIC website - www.niceic.org.uk

What if I'm not satisfied with the work? Is there a complaints procedure?

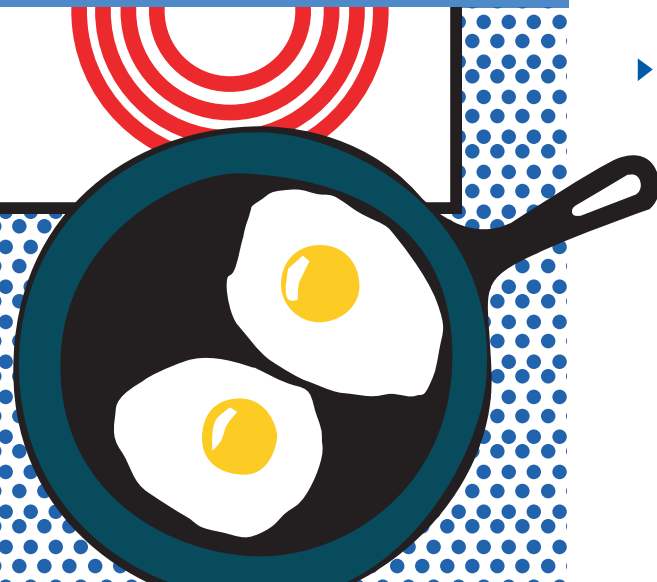
- ▶ **Yes**, for the rare cases where a consumer is not satisfied with the technical standard of an Approved Contractor's or Domestic Installer's electrical work, the NICEIC offers a complaints resolution service. The NICEIC expects its Contractors to provide quality services to customers so, subject to certain limitations and conditions, we endeavour to resolve all complaints about the technical standard of their electrical work. If a customer and an Approved Contractor or Domestic Installer are unable to resolve an alleged deficiency in the technical standard of electrical work, the customer can make a formal complaint to the NICEIC. All complaints falling within the scope of the NICEIC complaints procedure will be investigated. Details of the complaints procedure are given on the NICEIC website.

A Checklist for your home - Are you protected?

Periodic Inspection and Testing

- ▶ *When was the last time your electrics were tested?*

Your electrical installation will inevitably deteriorate over time so it's important that you occasionally get it inspected and tested to check that it's still safe to use. The Institution of Electrical Engineers recommends that the installation in your home is checked at intervals not exceeding ten years. A notice recommending periodic inspection, and the date by which it should be carried out, should have been fixed on or near your consumer unit (fuseboard).



Circuit Protection

► *Keep blowing a fuse?*

The national safety standard requires every circuit to be protected by a circuit breaker or fuse which will automatically disconnect the circuit in the event of an overload or fault current (such as a short circuit). These devices are normally contained in a consumer unit (fuseboard). Before the circuit breaker is reset or the fuse is replaced, the reason for the operation of the protective device should be determined, and the fault corrected. (It is essential that a blown fuse is replaced by one of the correct rating for the circuit concerned – this rating should be indicated on the consumer unit.)

Residual Current Devices (RCD)

► *Protect yourself!*

Your electrical installation may incorporate one or more RCDs. This is another automatic safety device intended to provide protection against electric shock. Any Approved Contractor will be able to install or check these devices for you. Because of the greater risk of electric shock occurring outdoors, the national safety standard has for some years required an RCD to be provided in new installations to protect any socket-outlet that may reasonably be used to supply electrical equipment outdoors. It is important for you to test all your RCDs quarterly by means of the test button provided on them.



The NICEIC is here to help you. Electrical safety is our business.

If you need further advice on any of the electrical safety information given in this leaflet,
call us on **0870 013 0381** or visit us at: **www.niceic.org.uk**



LOOK FOR THE SYMBOL OF SAFETY