



Preparing for electrical rewiring

**All you need
to know about
having your
home rewired**





Your home requires to be rewired within the next six months. Rewiring involves major intrusive work, which will cause disruption to your home. This leaflet lets you know what to expect.

Contents

About rewiring	3
How long will it take?	3
Preparing for rewiring	4
What we may need to do before rewiring	4
What you will need to do before rewiring	5–6
Rewiring day	7
After rewiring	7
Get in touch	8

Privacy Notice

East Lothian Council is committed to processing data in accordance with its responsibilities under the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

East Lothian Council will ensure that personal data passed to East Lothian Council approved contractors are adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to carrying out works, ensuring information is held only for the duration of the works.



About rewiring

Rewiring involves the replacement of all existing wiring and accessories including power sockets, switches, light fittings and fuse board and may include:

- **channels being cut into solid walls**
- **holes being cut into plasterboard**
- **breaching tiles in kitchens and bathrooms**
- **lifting floor boards to run cables**
- **removing skirting boards**
- **running cables in attics**

Work will be carried out in every room of your house. Following the advice in this booklet will help prevent any accidental damage or breakage to items in your home. It will also allow our team to work without obstruction. Our tradespersons will use dustsheets, but it is unavoidable that dust and debris will be dispersed.

How long will it take?

The work normally takes no longer than one day. Our Trades Supervisor will advise you of any delays. For health and safety reasons, you will need to leave your home on the day of the rewiring work in order for it to be carried out.

What we will arrange

We will arrange and pay for a removal service to store your furniture during rewiring. We can also provide boxes to help with packing in advance of the work taking place. If you need your furniture to be kept for longer than the duration of the works, you can arrange this directly with the removal firm. You will need to pay for this additional storage time.

We will arrange for your carpets to be lifted and taken to storage, and for them to be refitted after rewiring work is completed. Please be aware that in some instances where carpets have been in place for many years, the carpet or underlay can disintegrate on being lifted. If this happens it may not be possible to re-lay the carpet or underlay and you will be responsible for supplying and fitting a replacement.



Preparing for rewiring

Before we can begin rewiring we may need to carry out some surveys:

- **Property survey**

We will write to you to arrange an appointment for the Trades Supervisor to visit and survey your home. During this appointment we will discuss the extent of rewiring works required and what you will need to do before work can begin. We will also give you a timetable for the rewiring work so that you can make the necessary arrangements in advance.

- **Kitchen survey**

If you are also getting a new kitchen installed, we will carry out a kitchen survey. Please refer to our leaflet '*Preparing for your kitchen replacement*' for more information.

- **Asbestos survey**

If your home has not been previously surveyed, we will carry out an asbestos survey. A specialist contractor will contact you to arrange a suitable time to do this, and if any work is required, this will be explained to you by the contractor.

If your property also requires a Scottish Power isolator switch to be fitted, Scottish Power will contact you directly to arrange this. If your home requires a heating upgrade or any other major improvement works, these will be arranged to take place at the same time to minimise disruption and inconvenience.

Electrical sockets, switches and light pendants

During the property survey, we will discuss with you the number of sockets that will be installed in each room. We will make an effort to install these sockets as near to where you would like us to fit them.

The following will be provided as a minimum:

- **Kitchen** – 3 double sockets and 2 single sockets controlled by an above-worktop switch. A fan will also be fitted.
- **Living Room** – 5 double sockets, including 2 set behind the TV area.
- **Bedrooms** – 3 double sockets.
- **Hall** – 1 double socket (at the top and bottom, where applicable).
- **Bathroom** – A fan will be fitted. A shower switch and cable will also be fitted for future planned works.
- **Outside lights** – these will be installed where required.



If you have any concerns or queries please discuss this with the Trades Supervisor when they visit.

Before rewiring day you will need to:

- **Lift floor coverings**

The Trades Supervisor will advise you of the floor coverings you need to remove at his visit. This may include laminate/wooden flooring, vinyl, ceramic tiles. We will arrange for your carpets to be lifted and taken into storage. Any stair carpet will remain in your home and will be covered with plastic sheeting for protection.

- **Clear your rooms**

Rooms must be cleared as much as possible to prevent any accidental damage to your furniture and to minimise obstruction to rewiring works. You may be left with some furniture as it may not be possible to remove some items such as large sofas or wardrobes. All large electrical appliances (e.g. washing machines, dishwashers, cookers etc) will be left and should be stored safely where they will not be damaged.

- **Remove and pack all household items**

You must remove and pack all your household items such as clocks, mirrors, pictures, ornaments, lamps and lampshades, books and DVDs. Our removal contractor can provide boxes to help with packing.

- **Clear attic space and lift its flooring**

You must ensure that the attic is cleared of all stored items and furniture, and any flooring is lifted.

- **Clear and empty your kitchen units**

If your home is being fitted with a new kitchen, you must empty your kitchen units so that they are ready to be removed on the rewiring date. If you are not getting a new kitchen fitted, you will still need to clear the floor and units of all breakable items. White goods e.g. fridges, freezers, cookers are not taken into storage and will remain in the kitchen. If you have a fridge or freezer that is not visible (because it is kept in a cupboard or outhouse, for example), remember to tell us during the property survey. Although the electrical supply will be switched off during the rewiring, it won't be long enough to defrost your fridge or freezer.



Other important issues

Outbuildings

If you have any outbuildings that have an electrical supply, please inform our Trades Supervisor before rewiring work begins. You may need to employ your own qualified electrician to reconnect any electrical supply to an outbuilding or area outwith your home. Prior permission must be obtained for this, and relevant test certificates will need to be submitted to East Lothian Council for this work.

DIY electrical fittings

If you have installed any of your own electrical works e.g. doorbells or showers, we will incorporate these into our rewiring works. Please note that all equipment and fittings must meet relevant British Standards, and we will disconnect any DIY wiring work that is deemed unsafe or does not meet current legislation.

Gas appliances and cooker hoods

If you are getting a new kitchen fitted and you have bought a new gas cooker or hob to be installed at the same time, you must:

1. Write to the Central Heating Team, Penston House, Macmerry Industrial Estate, EH33 1EX for permission to install the appliance, and
2. Have the new gas appliances fitted by an engineer that is registered by Gas Safe. Our tradespersons and contractor will not fit a new gas appliance.

We will not fit a new or existing cooker hood as part of the rewiring programme. Where applicable, you should make the necessary arrangements to remove and refit your cooker hood prior to the start date for the rewiring work.



Rewiring day

On the day of the rewiring our tradespersons will arrive at your home between 7.30am and 8am. They will be wearing a uniform with the East Lothian Council logo and will wear identification badges.

We kindly ask that you and other residents do not smoke while our employees are meeting with you or carrying out works in your home, and ideally for one hour before any pre-arranged visits.

We will keep your home secure at all times. We will also clear away any debris at the end of the working day. All electrical work is carried out to meet current BS7671 IEE Wiring Regulations, Building (Scotland) Regulations and the Council's own Rewiring Standard.

Remember – Before rewiring work starts, you must have completed all points listed on page 5.

East Lothian Council takes no responsibility for damage caused to furniture or other items that have not been removed prior to the rewiring work.

After the work is completed

Cleaning up East Lothian Council Building Cleaning Services will call at your home on the afternoon of your rewiring day to clear away any dust or debris.

Snagging If there are any 'snagging issues' (minor faults that need fixed), we aim to complete these on the Friday following the rewiring.

Decorating allowance

The council will pay you an allowance towards the costs of redecoration. You will be informed of this at the Trades Supervisor's visit. The amount provided is dependent on the size of your property, and will be paid by cheque or BACS within four to six weeks after work has been completed.



Versions of this leaflet can be supplied in Braille, large print, audiotape or in your own language. Please phone Customer Services if you require assistance on 01620 827199

To make a comment, suggestion or complaint about a council service, download a feedback form online at **www.eastlothian.gov.uk** or pick one up at your local office.

Get in touch

Our Trades Supervisor is available during office hours (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) to answer any questions and resolve any problems that you may have.

Call 01875 824311
or email pmplannedworks@eastlothian.gov.uk
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