Solid Electrics Limited

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CLIENT HELP SHEET

Why does my old Fusebox need replacing, it has been fine for years?



This is the question that I often get asked by customers and it is a very valid point. Why would you want to pay hundreds of pounds to replace something that works? The simple answer is, yes it does work to an extent. It will allow electricity to travel throughout your house and power lighting and equipment. However, if there is a fault, it might not keep you safe! Think of an old car with no air bags, seatbelts or impact protection and with asbestos brake pads for good measure!!

*"Electricity also causes more than 20,000 house fires a year - that's almost half of **all** accidental house fires.."*

Very old fuse boards protect a circuit using fuse wire. When a large current is drawn it melts this fuse wire causing the circuit to disconnect. All too often, incorrect fuse wire is installed, often without your knowledge, and circuits are left unprotected, leaving them vulnerable to deadly house fires or electric shock.

A registered and insured Electrician will often be unable to make additions or alterations to circuits that are protected by these old fuseboards as it is likely to be a direct contravention of the Wiring Regulations (BS7671).



What benefits will I see from a new Consumer Unit?

RCD protection - RCDs or Residual Current Devices are designed to protect an individual from electric shock. This will trip in less than 0.3 seconds if more than 30 milli amps of electricity travels through your body. This is so quick that its less than a heartbeat!!



MCBs - Another safety feature of modern consumer units are MCBs or Miniature Circuit Breakers. These devices will disconnect a circuit in less than 0.4 seconds if a fault is detected.

RCBO - This is an RCD and MCB combined and the preferred option for most circuits

SPD - A surge protection device is now installed in all our consumer units. This device can absorb an incoming surge of electricity caused be a nearby lightning strike. Without such a device it is possible that every electrical device in your home could be destroyed due to a nearby lightning strike.

""Electricity can and does kill. Every year, around 350,000 people are seriously injured and 70 people are killed because of an electrical accident in the home.""

Fire Rated Enclosures - All modern consumer units are designed to non-combustible. This is due to a large number of house fires originating at the consumer unit. If you have a consumer unit made of plastic then there is a higher risk of fire.

Who can Install a replacement Consumer Unit?

Only a qualified, insured and registered Electrician can install a replacement consumer Unit. The work is classed as *notifiable work*, this means it has to be notified to the local building control. On completion you will receive an Electrical Installation Certificate and a few days later you will receive your Building Control Notification.

Shem is a fully qualifies, NAPIT registered electrician with 20 years of experience in electrical industry. He specialized in domestic installations, fault finding and EV charging points. He holds range of testing and installation electrical qualifications.

Solid Electrics serves Southampton and surrounding areas.

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