

Built for Safety with SP Energy Networks



"There's nothing better than finally getting stuck into a project you've been planning. But before the first dig or drill, take a minute to check what's around you. Overhead power lines and underground cables aren't always easy to spot, and one simple check can make all the difference. Free utility plans and safety consultations are there to help, so contact our team or your local electricity network operator on 105 before you start. Not sure where to begin? We're always happy to help."

Sean Griffiths, SP Energy Networks Health and Safety Director

Indoor DIY Safety Tips:

Don't guess where cables run:

Never assume that electrical cables travel in a straight vertical or horizontal line from sockets or switches.



Turn off the main power:

Consider turning off the electricity at the main switch before you start any work. However, remember that the incoming supply cables will still be live.

Use cable detectors:

Before drilling or nailing, use a non-contact electrical cable detector to identify hidden wires behind walls, partitions, ceilings, or under floors.

Assume everything is live:

Wires are often embedded just inside the wall plaster or routed through tight loft spaces. Always treat all exposed or hidden cables as live and dangerous.

Gardening DIY Safety Tips:

Leave nearby trees to professionals:

Never attempt to trim or fell trees that are growing near overhead power lines. Contact your local electricity network operator to arrange a free safety assessment and professional clearance.

Carry ladders horizontally:

Always look out, look up to check for overhead power lines before setting up for a project. To avoid accidental contact, carry long objects at a low level and horizontally.



Request utility plans before digging:

Before starting any work, take time to assess potential electrical hazards. SP Energy Networks offers free safety advice and LineSearchBeforeUDig can provide free network plans.

Use safe digging techniques:

Before using any mechanical excavation equipment, dig trial holes by hand. As you dig, watch for warning signs like yellow tape, protective tiles, or ducting.

648 incidents

of cable damage recorded on domestic premises last year, the danger is real.



Call 105 in the event of an electrical network emergency. If anyone is injured or requires medical assistance, dial 999 immediately.

CALL 105

