

JOINT PRESS RELEASE

12 May 2023

Residual Current Circuit Breakers Required in All Residential Premises Built Before 1985 for Greater Electrical Safety

From 1 July 2023, all residential premises will be required to have a Residual Current Circuit Breaker (RCCB) installed, to enhance the electrical safety in all households. Homeowners will be given a grace period of two years from the effective date of the requirement to install an RCCB.

2 The RCCB is an electrical safety device that cuts off electricity supply immediately upon the detection of current leakages that may lead to an electric shock. Current leakages are caused by ageing or exposed wires, faulty electrical appliances, and damaged insulation. Hence, the RCCB is an essential protective device to prevent electric shocks.

3 Since July 1985¹, all new electrical installations including those in new homes built have been required to have an RCCB installed. Over the years, most residential premises would have undergone renovations, and had their electrical circuits rewired and installed with an RCCB in line with this requirement. However, there remains a small percentage of residential premises built before July 1985 which may be using their original electrical circuits without an RCCB installed.

HDB Flats

4 For HDB flats built before July 1985, the Energy Market Authority (EMA) will be notifying homeowners to install an RCCB in their home if it has not already been installed. To provide support to lower-income households, the Housing & Development Board (HDB) has been carrying out the installation of RCCB for homeowners of 1- and 2- room HDB sold flats completed in and before 1985, if they do not already have one. The cost of the RCCB installation and necessary rewiring works for these flats is fully funded by the Government.

5 For 3-room and larger flat types completed in and before 1985 and which do not have an RCCB installed, HDB will be writing to these homeowners to share more

¹ Prior to this, all homes (including HDB flats and private housing) were provided with fuses to protect against current overload in circuits and appliances.

information on the RCCB Installation Assistance Programme. Under the assistance programme, the Government will subsidise up to 95% of the cost of the RCCB installation and necessary rewiring works (more details on the cost-sharing ratios are in Annex A).

Private Residences

6 EMA will notify homeowners of private residential premises to check and install an RCCB in their home if they do not already have one. Homeowners can engage a Licensed Electrical Worker (LEW) at www.go.gov.sg/rccb-lew for installation works. For clarifications or assistance, please email ema_enquiry@ema.gov.sg or call 6835 8000.

Non-Compliances

7 All residential premises (i.e. HDB flats and private residences) will be given a grace period of two years from the effective date of the requirement, 1 July 2023, to install a RCCB. The penalty for non-compliance is a fine of up to \$5,000 under the Electricity (Electrical Installations) Regulations.

8 All homeowners are encouraged to test their RCCB regularly to ensure that it is in good working condition. If they suspect their RCCB to be faulty, they should engage a LEW at www.go.gov.sg/rccb-lew to conduct further checks, and have it replaced. More information on this can be found in [Annex B](#).

9 For additional information, a set of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers on the requirement is at [Annex C](#).

Annex A: Cost-sharing Ratios and Estimated Amounts Payable for HDB Homeowners

Annex B: Infographic on Steps to Test an RCCB

Annex C: Frequently Asked Questions on the RCCB Requirement

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About the Energy Market Authority

The Energy Market Authority (EMA) is a statutory board under the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry. Through our work, we seek to build a clean energy future that is resilient, sustainable, and competitive. We aim to ensure a reliable and secure energy supply, promote effective competition in the energy market and develop a dynamic energy sector in Singapore. Visit www.ema.gov.sg for more information.

Instagram: @EMA_Singapore | Facebook: facebook.com/EnergyMarketAuthority |
Twitter: @EMA_sg | LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/energy-market-authority-ema/

About the Housing & Development Board

The Housing & Development Board (HDB) is Singapore's public housing authority. We plan and develop Singapore's housing estates; building homes and transforming towns to create a quality living environment for all. We provide various commercial, recreational, and social amenities in our towns for our residents' convenience.

Today, more than 1 million flats have been completed in 23 towns and 3 estates across Singapore. HDB flats are home to 80% of Singapore's resident population, of which about 90% own their home.

For more information, please visit <http://www.hdb.gov.sg>

ANNEX A: COST-SHARING RATIOS AND AMOUNTS PAYABLE FOR HDB HOMEOWNERS

For homeowners of 1- and 2- room HDB sold flats completed in and before 1985 without an RCCB, the cost of the RCCB installation works and necessary rewiring works for these flats is fully funded by the Government.

For homeowners of 3-room and larger flat types completed in and before 1985 without an RCCB, the Government will subsidise up to 95% of the cost for RCCB installation works and necessary rewiring works.

The cost-sharing ratios and estimated amounts payable by HDB homeowners are:

Flat Type	1- and 2-Room	3-Room	4-Room	5-Room	Executive
Cost-sharing Ratio	Fully funded	5%	7.5%	10%	12.5%
Estimated amount payable*	-	\$25.00	\$37.50	\$50.00	\$62.50

** All amounts stated are estimates and are subject to GST. The final amount will be determined only upon completion of the RCCB installation and necessary rewiring works,*

HDB will be writing to these homeowners to share more information on the assistance programme for installation of RCCB.

ANNEX B: INFOGRAPHIC ON STEPS TO TEST A RESIDUAL CURRENT CIRCUIT BREAKER

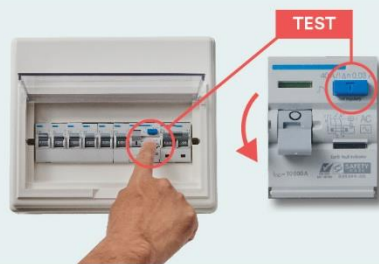
Keep your family safe. 3 steps to test your Residual Current Circuit Breaker.



What is a Residual Current Circuit Breaker (RCCB)?

An RCCB is a safety device that cuts off electricity supply upon detecting electricity leakage in your home. It protects you and your family from electric shocks.

1



Tip: Before testing your RCCB, protect your appliances by switching them off first.

Test the RCCB by pressing the TEST button. The RCCB switch will flip down, cutting off all power supply in your home.

2



Test all light switches and power sockets in every room. The RCCB is working if your lights and appliances do not turn on.

***IMPORTANT:** If any light or power socket continues to work when the RCCB switch is flipped down, your house is not fully protected by the RCCB. Contact a Licensed Electrical Worker immediately.

3



Switch off all lights and power sockets. Flip up the RCCB switch to restore power supply and switch on lights and appliances that you need.

Where can I find my RCCB?

Locate your electrical distribution board box at home. Look for the switch with a test button. This is your RCCB.

Can't find your RCCB?

For HDB apartments, contact your HDB Branch Service Line at 1800-225-5432 or www.hdb.gov.sg/efeedback if you require assistance.



For private housing, please contact a Licensed Electrical Worker by scanning the QR code or visit go.gov.sg/rccb-lew for assistance.

RCCB



ANNEX C: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE RESIDUAL CURRENT CIRCUIT BREAKER REQUIREMENT

1. Does the requirement to install a RCCB apply to all residential types i.e. HDB flats and private housing (landed properties and condominiums)?

This requirement is applicable to all residential premises. Homeowners without RCCB will be given a grace period of two years from 1 July 2023 to install a RCCB.

2. Who will enforce the requirement?

EMA or its appointed agent will conduct random enforcement checks after the 2-year grace period, focusing on pre-1985 private residential premises, as well as selected pre-1985 HDB flats. Any residential premise found without an RCCB will be issued a written warning and would be given another 8 weeks to install an RCCB.

3. What if homeowners have an RCCB installed, but it is found to be faulty or do not protect all electrical circuits in their home, will they still be penalised?

Homeowners found with a faulty RCCB in their home will not be penalised. Flat owners should test their RCCB regularly to ensure that it is working well. Should the RCCB be faulty, flat owners should engage a LEW to install the new RCCB.

HDB flat owners may contact HDB if they need help to locate their RCCBs to conduct the checks.

4. Why is the RCCB requirement only made in the Electricity Act now?

Since July 1985, all new residential premises are required to be installed with RCCBs. Residential premises built before July 1985 that have undergone substantive renovations or electrical installation works, on or after July 1985, were also required to comply with this requirement.

Residential premises built before 1985 and have not undergone any substantive renovation, electrical rewiring or upgrading work would not have installed the RCCB. To enhance electrical safety of these premises, it is hence necessary to introduce this requirement.