For guidance on managing construction health risks go to
www.hse.gov.uk/construction

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Using the Plasterer's Light

(transportable light)

1. Take care not to trap fingers when erecting the stands.
2. Ensure that nobody is looking into the light before switching it on – the brightness can cause temporary blindness.
3. Do not hang or drape cables, strings or anything else over the lights.
4. Check that cables are laid out safely and are not causing a hazard.
5. If a cable appears to be cut or damaged in any way, switch off and unplug the supply before inspecting it.
6. If the cable attached to a light is damaged, stop using the light. Contact the hire company. If an extension cable has been damaged, do not use it again.
7. Ensure that no combustible material, such as paper or rubbish, is too close to powerful and hot lights.
8. Switch off lights and unplug before moving them or adjusting their position. With halogen lights allow to cool a short while before moving.
9. Switch off and unplug before leaving the transportable lights unattended.
10. Before switching off any lighting, ensure no one is going to be put in danger by the drop in lighting levels.
11. If the lights are left in place for more than a week, then a competent person should inspect them every week to make sure that they are safe.
12. If your equipment does not work properly, do not attempt to repair it. Contact the hire company.

Please keep this leaflet safely as it may be required for reference at a future date

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Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
The Crescent
Birmingham Business Park
Solihull B37 7YE

Telephone: 44 (0) 121 380 4600
Fax: 44 (0) 121 333 4109
Email: mail@hae.org.uk
website: www.hae.org.uk

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Plasterer's Light

and similar lights
Tasklight – Contractor's Light
Failsafe Light – Upright Light

The rules and procedures in force where people are at work may require the person responsible for this equipment to carry out a specific risk assessment. This leaflet is not a substitute for a properly executed risk assessment.

It is important to read all of this leaflet BEFORE you use the Plasterer's Light

1. Plan each task and try to foresee any problems that may occur so they can be dealt with safely.
2. Electricity is hazardous and must always be used with great care.
3. Water and electricity make a very hazardous combination. Do not splash water on the electrical parts and keep the equipment out of the rain.
4. These lights are designed to provide almost shadow free illumination on walls and ceilings; they are easily adjustable and quickly transportable.
5. The following items of personal protective equipment are a minimum:
   RCD if using a 230 volt (mains) supply
6. These lights must not be installed or used by minors, or by anyone under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
7. These lights are designed for installation and use by an able bodied adult. Anyone with either temporary or permanent disability must seek expert advice before using it.

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Hire Association Europe
2450 Regents Court
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website: www.hae.org.uk

WORK AREA

1. Do not use electrical equipment where there is a danger of explosion. It may ignite fumes from petrol or gas cylinders.
2. Keep electrical equipment away from rain and water.
3. Ensure the work area is clear and safe and that no-one can come close to cause distraction. Warn others to keep away; barriers or warning signs may be necessary.
4. Ensure there are no combustible materials near to the lights. Some lights can produce as much heat as a 1kw electric radiant heater, and can cause paper and cloth to ignite. Check that no loose paper or rubbish can be blown close to the light.
5. Set up the lights in an area where they will be safe from vehicles, people, water, rain, strong gusts of wind and other hazards which may damage them or knock them over. The ground should be firm and level.
6. Lay out the cables to avoid damaging them, and so that the cables themselves do not form a tripping hazard in doorways or walkways.

PLASTERER'S LIGHT – TRANSPORTABLE LIGHT

1. Check the equipment including cables, plugs and sockets; check that the stand supports the light properly. If anything is found damaged, do not use it – contact the hire company.
2. Check that the plugs on the cables match the supply. Do not try to force connections or improvise them.
3. Lights with a cylindrical yellow industrial plug fitted are designed to run off a special 110v supply. The hire company will have provided a portable transformer if the lights are required to be powered from a normal mains 230v supply. If a portable transformer has been supplied, take care not to injure yourself when moving it about – it may be heavier than you think.
4. Equipment designed to run directly from 230v mains will have either a normal square pin plug fitted, or a blue industrial plug.

LIGHTS WITH BATTERY BACKUP

1. The light may be a portable light that is charged from a mains supply before it is used in a place where there is no mains supply.
2. The light may be a fail-safe light that normally runs on mains supply but will automatically provide up to 3 hours f safety light should the mains supply fail.
3. The guidance in this leaflet still applies; in addition follow any verbal instructions from the hire company or labels attached to the equipment regarding batteries and charging.

LINK LIGHTS

1. Some of these light units are fitted with plugs/sockets allowing them to be used as single units, or to be linked together to form a chain of lights.
2. Do not overload the electrical system by adding more units than the maximum stated. If unsure – ask the hire company.
3. Do not plug a power tool into the light chain unless you have specific instruction that this is permissible.

Before Starting Work...

ELECTRICAL SAFETY - GENERAL

The equipment will only operate on one voltage: it will be 110v or 230v. Read the instructions below for each type.

110 VOLT LIGHTING (YELLOW PLUG)

1. If using a portable transformer, plug the transformer directly into the 230 volt socket. Do not use any 230v extension cables.
2. If an extension cable is required, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company have not given any special instructions only use a suitably rated heavy duty 110v extension cable, no longer than 50 metres (160 feet). Only use an extension cable between the transformer and the lighting.
3. Lay the extension cable out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
4. Ensure sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

230 VOLT LIGHTING (SQUARE PIN OR BLUE PLUG)

1. Use a residual current device ("rcd") plugged directly into the 230 volt socket. Plug the lighting into the rcd. This will help to protect against electric shock if the cable or lights get damaged.
2. Use the "TEST" button to check that the rcd is working each time it is used. Reset the rcd according to the instructions supplied with it.
3. If an extension cable is required, follow any special instructions given by the hire company. If the hire company have not given any special instructions, only use a suitably rated heavy duty one, no longer than 50 metres (160 feet). Plug it directly into the rcd.
4. Lay it out carefully avoiding liquids, sharp edges, doorways or windows where it might be trapped, and places where vehicles might run over it. Unroll it fully or it will overheat and could catch fire.
5. Make sure that any extension cable connections are dry and safe.

CHANGING FLUORESCENT TUBES OR HALOGEN BULBS

1. Make sure you have the correct replacement fluorescent tube or halogen bulb ready. Check with the hire company if in any doubt.
2. Ensure that no-one will be put in danger if when switching off several lights. Then switch off and unplug the faulty light.
3. It may be necessary to wait for high power lights to cool down before safely handling them.
4. Open any covers taking care not to lose any fixing screws or clips.
5. Do not touch replacement halogen bulbs with bare fingers – this will shorten the bulb's life; use clean cloth or tissue paper.
6. When the tube or bulb has been changed, replace all covers and guards properly, and secure any screws or clips.
7. Do not look into the light as it is plugged in and switched on – powerful lights can dazzle.