



Government
of South Australia

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN METROPOLITAN FIRE SERVICE



HOME FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY INFORMATION

Electronic Devices

Electronic devices, such as mobile phones, tablets, and laptop computers found in most homes, have become everyday items in our lives. However, they still come with risks and must be treated with care and respect. They may pose a fire risk if they are in poor condition, used incorrectly or not manufactured to comply with Australian Standards and laws.

South Australian Metropolitan Fire Service (MFS) provides the following fire and life safety tips to minimise the risk of injury or fire.

- Only use electronic devices with the Regulatory Compliance Mark (RCM) symbol and/or the Standards Australia 'five ticks' symbol. These marks indicate the electronic equipment or device is manufactured or suitable for use in Australia and satisfies the relevant Australian Standard.



Figure 1 Standards Australia 'five ticks' symbol



Figure 2 Regulatory Compliance Mark

- Be cautious when buying electrical items online from overseas. They may not comply with Australian Standards or safe design requirements and may not have the RCM symbol. They may lack the safety features required for electrical items sold in Australia.
- Non-genuine 'after-market' products can look like genuine accessories but may be poorly designed and made, e.g. mobile phone chargers, and can pose a fire risk to the users. They may overheat or they may cause your device to overheat. Always look for the original manufacturer's logo or the logo of a reputable accessory maker, and ensure the RCM symbol is present.
- Non-genuine 'counterfeit' accessories are made to look like original components and are often very cheap to buy. They are often not made to the same standard as the original manufacturers' accessories. They may pose a risk of fire and should be avoided.

- If using international adapters to plug devices in for charging ensure they are approved for use in Australia by looking for the RCM symbol or the Australian Standard five ticks symbol.
- Normal use and charging of your portable devices may generate heat. Avoid using or charging your mobile phones, tablets, laptops or similar devices in or on your bed. The soft fabrics may prevent the heat build-up from dissipating. This can lead to a fire starting.
- Always provide adequate ventilation around all electrical devices, including when charging them, to avoid heat build-up.
- Do not cover charging cables, transformers and plugs when they are in use.
- Always charge these devices on stable, non-combustible surfaces.
- If purchasing second hand electrical or electronic devices consider having them tested by an electrician to ensure they are operating safely. We recommend that a check is made prior to purchase, on the product recalls website to determine if the device has been the subject of a product recall. <https://www.productsafety.gov.au/recalls>.

Combine the above safety tips with the installation of well-maintained, photo-electric [smoke alarms](#) in your home that are less than 10 years old. Consider having all your smoke alarms interconnected.

For more information call the Community Safety & Resilience Department 8204 3611

Country callers 1300 737 637

email SAMFScommunitysafety@sa.gov.au

visit our website www.mfs.sa.gov.au

or call in to 99 Wakefield Street, Adelaide during business hours.

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