

# ELECTRICITY

## for campers and caravanners

### A guide for hooking-up safely



The Camping and Caravanning Club  
*The friendly Club*

### The Camping and Caravanning Club's policy for electric hook-ups on Club sites

The Camping and Caravanning Club will allow any kind of camping unit – caravan, trailer tent, motor caravan and tent – to connect to electric hook-ups on Club sites.

The Club will be responsible for the safety of the electrical system up to the outlet socket on the hook-up post.

It is the responsibility of the camper to ensure that the mains electrical cable from the hook-up point to the unit and the unit's installation are safe.

The Club will do all it can to educate and advise campers in the safe installation, maintenance and use of electricity.

Inspection and maintenance of the electrical hook-up point system will be carried out by the Club on a regular basis. It also reserves the right for Holiday Site Managers to instruct campers to disconnect electric equipment that does not meet recommended safety standards.

The Club does not require the production of an inspection certificate with any kind of camping unit but recommends members to obtain one for their unit.

The Club will not accept liability for any loss, accident or damage caused by the misuse or the unsuitability of a camper's equipment, except if loss, accident or damage is caused by the negligence of any Club employee.

This Data Sheet is one of a series produced by The Camping and Caravanning Club on key camping and caravanning topics.

These are available as downloadable Acrobat files, free to all campers and caravanners.

This Data Sheet originally appeared in *Camping and Caravanning*, the Club's monthly magazine. It is just one of the many benefits of membership. Club members also benefit from access to over 90 UK Club Sites, Carefree, the Club's international travel service, and a wide range of other, exclusive Member Services.

You can join the Club on-line, or by calling 024 7685 6797, or at any of our UK Club Sites.

When you connect to any site hook-up point you will normally receive a nominal 230V, single phase, 50Hz supply.

You should find a label on your equipment that will tell you if it is suitable for this type of supply.

The Camping and Caravanning Club will not accept responsibility for any damage arising from the use by you of any unsuitable or unsafe equipment.

### YOUR SUPPLY CABLE

The socket outlet of the Club's site's hook-up points complies with the British Standard BS EN 60309-2.

Your connecting lead must have a plug to match this socket outlet and a connector to match the inlet to your unit.

Suitable leads fitted with the appropriate plug and socket are available from most camping or

Electricity is a very good friend but an even worse enemy. Remember that when camping on a site the provision of electricity is for temporary use and requires even more care than in the home. Do not allow children to play around the hook-up installation and cables. On no account let children connect or disconnect supplies. Make sure that your cables and equipment are maintained in good condition. If in doubt seek advice from an approved electrical engineer.

caravan dealers.

Your connecting lead should be 25 metres in length. If it is shorter it may not reach the nearest hook-up.

The use of a second cable should be avoided, but if used it must be fitted with the British Standard plug and connector.

The connection between the two cables should be raised off the ground.

Taped cable joints and ordinary 13 amp plugs and sockets must not be used under any circumstances.

### HOOK-UP POST

Each Club hook-up post is individually protected against overload by a Miniature Circuit Breaker (MCB) and a Residual Current Device (RCD).

The MCB is a safety measure and limits the amount of current that you can draw from the mains.

Most hook-ups on Club sites have a maximum rating of 10 amps, although some have 16 amps.

To avoid accidental operation of the breaker and

## On Camping and Caravanning Club sites

The Camping and Caravanning Club will not accept any responsibility for any accident arising from the use by campers of unsafe or unsuitable electrical equipment connected to site hook-ups.

The Club, its site management and Holiday Site Managers (HSMs) can only be responsible up to the socket outlet of the hook-up point to which campers connect.

Club HSMs have an overall responsibility for the safety of all campers while on their site.

In order to ensure the safety of all campers on Club sites, HSMs will disconnect any electrical equipment not conforming to the Club's recommendations or connected to the electrical supply in an unsafe manner.

The HSM's decision will be final in this matter.

## How much power?

This chart shows how many watts or amps normal appliances may use. It is only a guide and power ratings do vary. Add up the wattage or amps for each of your own appliances in use at any one time. The total should not exceed 2,300 watts or 10 amps. If you are hooked up to a 16 amp connection the wattage rises to 3,680.

Appliance	Watts	Amps	Appliance	Watts	Amps
Domestic kettle	2,000	8.3	Domestic microwave	1,200	5.0
Camping kettle	750	3.1	Truma water heater	660	2.75
Domestic fan heater	1,000	4.2	Colour TV	30	0.1
Camping fan heater	750	3.1		90	0.4
Refrigerator	125	0.5	Battery charger	100	0.4
Toaster	1,300	5.4		200	0.8
Iron	1,300	5.4	Hair dryer	600	2.6
				1,200	5.2

These are only average figures. More accurate power figures for wattage or amperage are marked on the appliance itself.

Please note that small microwaves are often described as 600 or 750 watt. This is the power they require to run – starting power can be as much as twice the stated amperage.

consequential loss of supply make sure that the total wattage of your equipment you have switched on at any one time is less than 2300 watts (or 3,680 for 16 amp sites).

Each item of electrical equipment normally has its wattage marked on it.

Beware of using ordinary domestic kettles or fan heaters. Some of them can draw almost 10 amps on their own!

Special low wattage kettles and fan heaters are available from camping and caravan dealers.

Each socket outlet of the hook-up point is individually protected by the RCD which is designed to cut off the supply in the event of a fault occurring in your connecting lead, caravan or other camping unit.

### CONNECTING UP

Pitch your unit and then make sure that the isolating switch in your unit is in the off

position. Connect your cable first to the unit and then to the site hook-up outlet.

It is a good idea before turning on your appliances to check that the electrical supply to your unit is working correctly.

Use a mains tester, obtainable from most camping dealers, which will tell you if your electrical circuits are safe to use.

### DISCONNECTING

When you are ready to go, first switch off the isolating switch in your unit. Disconnect the cable from the hook-up outlet socket and then remove the cable from your unit.

**Use a mains tester after connecting to the site hook-up point and before using your appliances.**

**They are available from most good camping shops and caravan dealers for about £10.00.**



Motor caravanners leaving their pitch temporarily should take the cable with them to avoid theft.

Do not leave disconnected cables lying about.

### LOSS OF SUPPLY

On Club sites, any loss of supply should be reported to the HSM as soon as possible.

If the loss of supply is because you have overloaded the circuit or misused your equipment there may be a charge for restoring your electricity supply.

Please do not ask site staff to attend to hook-ups before 9am or after 9pm.

## On other sites

Not all camp sites are run to the same high standards as those of The Camping and Caravanning Club.

Today, even Certificated Sites often offer an electric hook-up but the standard can be variable.

Wherever you hook-up you should think about safety.

Ask the site operator if their hook-up is controlled by a Residual Current Device. If they can't give you a satisfactory answer, think carefully before you plug in.

## What you need to do now

Although The Camping and Caravanning Club does not require electrical inspection certificates or forms of indemnity, it is still imperative that campers ensure their electrical installations are safe – whatever kind of unit they camp in.

■ Your unit should be protected by its own Residual Current Device (RCD). This is a safety device which cuts off the electricity if a fault occurs on your appliance or internal wiring. Your RCD will have a test button. Check it once a month.

■ Most new caravans and motor caravans will carry a three-year National Caravan Council approval certificate.

One or two trailer tent manufacturers also issue the same kind of certificates.

However, some imported caravans and most trailer tents will not carry any kind of certification at all.

The Club strongly recommends that you obtain a certificate by having your mains electricity installation inspected regularly, preferably annually, by a qualified electrical engineer.

■ When an electrical supply is required in a tent it is strongly recommended that a purpose-made electrical supply unit, designed to attach to a tent pole, should be used.

Such units, available from camping accessory shops, should conform to the appropriate British Standards, be weatherproof and incorporate a Residual Circuit Breaker and overcurrent protective devices, preferably mini-circuit breakers.

■ Never connect to any site's electrical supply using a normal household cable, extension cable and three-pin socket and plug.

■ If you're in doubt about using electricity then seek advice from the Holiday Site Manager before connecting. If you're concerned about your own unit's installation or appliances get advice from a qualified electrician before going to site.

## Useful addresses and telephone numbers

**The Camping and Caravanning Club**  
Greenfields House, Westwood Way,  
Coventry CV4 8JH  
Telephone 024 7669 4995

**The National Caravan Council**  
Catherine House, Victoria Road, Aldershot,  
Hampshire GU11 1SS  
Telephone 01252 318251

**National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting**  
Vintage House, 37 Albert Embankment,  
London SE1 7UJ  
Telephone 020 7582 7746

**Electrical Contractors Association**  
34 Palace Court, London W2 4HY  
Telephone 020 7313 4800