

## Work on Electricity Consumer Units and Service Heads

There are instances where it may be necessary to contact the electricity supplier. These are typically:

- to fit a replacement consumer unit
- to install an additional consumer unit and/or RCD - typically for a shower.

The electricity supply from the local company arrives on premises via a main fuse as shown in Figures 1 and 2. Interfering with the main fuse is strictly speaking illegal and it is usually fitted with a seal. The company should remove it to allow work to proceed and then 'test and reconnect' when the work has been completed.

Figure 1 - Electricity Service Head

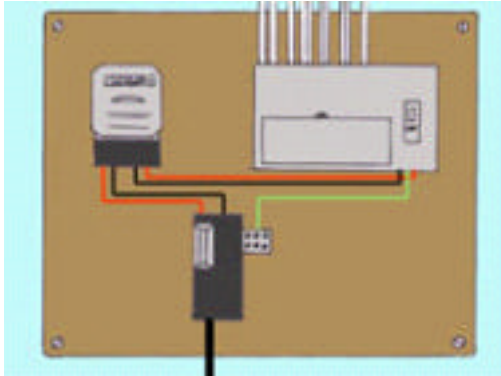
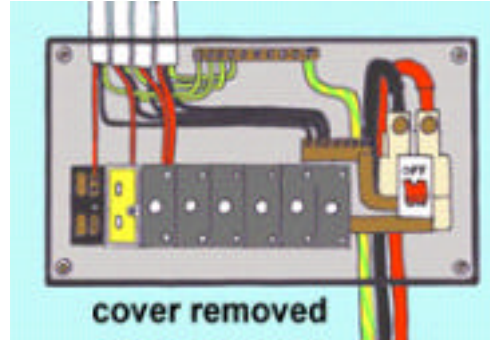


Figure 2 - Consumer Unit



That's the theory. In practise there is, with multiple suppliers, rampant confusion over the responsibility for the electricity company fuse and meter where a third party supplier (e.g. British Gas) is involved. And the responsibility appears to vary by supplier - it depends on inter-company contracts. If you run into problems then put your foot down with the contracted supplier whether it's an electricity, gas or marketing company and ask to speak to a supervisor.

In practise the electricity company may give you as an electrician (or competent person) permission over the telephone to remove the fuse in order to allow work to proceed. In this case once the work is completed you should call the supplying company and ask for a 'test and reconnect'. A typical charge for a call out to do this is £75 including VAT but there is no standard so check first.