



# Flood safety

## After a flood

To check the electrical safety of your property (i.e. the house and garage wiring etc) call a licensed electrical contractor to inspect and carry out verification tests on your switchboard, wiring, equipment and appliances. Ask for a certificate of test.

### House switchboards

- Stay away from switchboards, and warn others to do the same, if they are damaged by water.

### Asbestos

- With damage to buildings caused by flooding it is likely there will be asbestos-containing materials among the debris.
- Workplace Health and Safety Queensland has published a fact sheet called *How to handle asbestos safely after a storm* which is available at: <http://www.deir.qld.gov.au/asbestos/publications/guidance.htm#factsheets>.

### Generators

- Portable generators should only be used to power essential equipment, such as fridges.
- Only connect your generator to your house if you have had an electrical contractor fit a proper generator change-over switch with the appropriate generator socket.
- Do not connect your generator to your house using a power point on a power circuit or any other connection point. This is illegal and dangerous. This could energise the powerlines and cause an electric shock to anyone coming into contact with them. Also, plugging the generator into your house circuit could cause the generator to fail and cause a fire, or damage the generator and circuits.

- Ensure all leads used to connect your generator are in good working condition, i.e. no damage to plugs or lead and no exposed wires.
- Only use power boards that are protected by a safety switch.
- Place leads and power boards so they will not be affected by mechanical damage (e.g. stepped on, tripping, etc), flooding, or fire (e.g. coiled leads, overload).
- Be aware of risks including electrocution and poisoning/suffocation from carbon monoxide exhaust gases.
- Always run the generator outdoors or in a well-ventilated area, don't exceed the generator's load rating and follow the manufacturer's instructions.

## Electrical appliances and equipment

- Have a licensed electrical contractor check any electrical appliances or equipment you suspect has been submerged or damaged.

## Electrical work

- Do not do your own electrical work at any time, under any circumstances. This could result in life-threatening injuries.

**For further information on electrical safety and flooding, and general electrical safety, contact:**

- Ergon Energy – general enquiries on 13 74 66  
– faults on 13 22 96
- Energex on 13 62 62
- Essential Energy on 13 23 91
- The Electrical Safety Office on 1300 362 128.