Science - Electricity and circuits



Electrical appliances

There are many examples of electrical appliances around us.











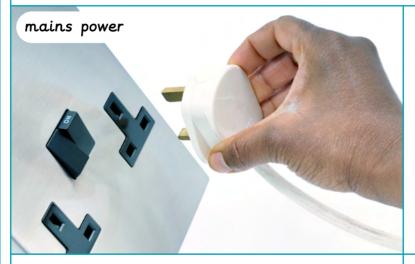


An electrical circuit is the pathway electrical charge flows around in an appliance.

For a circuit to work, it must have:

- A power source.
- A complete pathway.
- A device or component, such as a bulb.

power source - Something that transfers electrical energy to make an appliance work.



batteries



- Provides high power for larger appliances.
- Access to an electrical socket is needed to use the appliance.
- The appliance will be fixed in place.
- Allows an appliance to be portable (move anywhere).
- Can use an appliance where there are no electrical sockets.
- Batteries run out and need replacing.
- Batteries are harmful and must not go to landfill.

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A component is a part of an electrical circuit.

Symbols are often used to represent the components so they are easy to draw and recognise.





wire

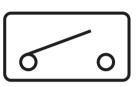


bulb

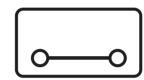


A circuit diagram is a simple line drawing that represents how the components in an appliance join together.

open switch



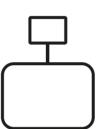
closed switch

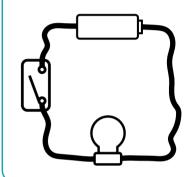


buzzer



motor





Electrical conductors - materials that allow electrical charge to flow through quickly.



Metals are good electrical conductors.

Electrical insulators - materials that do not allow electrical charge to flow easily.



Plastics are good electrical insulators.

Electrical safety



- Do not use wet hands when using electrical appliances or switches.
- Do not put anything other than a plug in an electrical socket.
- Let an adult know if electrical appliances or wires appear damaged.
- Do not leave electrical wires across the floor or hot surfaces.