

Houseboats

Gas and electrical safety



Creating a safer state
with electricity and gas

Don't risk an accident—make your houseboat safe to enjoy.

Houseboats should be checked regularly.

Care needs to be taken with gas and electricity on and around houseboats.

Don't risk electrocution, fire, explosion or asphyxiation—take action to make sure your boat is safe.

Gas safety

Ensure gas installations (incorporating pipework, fittings and appliances) are safe for use and that adequate ventilation and clearances to combustible surfaces are maintained. Energy Safe Victoria (ESV) encourages annual checks by a licensed gasfitter. An application must be submitted to ESV for any new or modified gas installation.

Electrical safety

Always do a basic visual check of your boat's electrical installation (wiring, power points, leads etc) before connecting the supply. Make sure the equipment is in good repair and there are no signs of misuse, wear or damage. Specific electrical safety standards apply for houseboats (AS/NZS 3004.1 and AS/NZS 3004.2). A detailed check should be carried out periodically by a licensed electrician.

Energy Safe Victoria recommends having your **houseboat checked annually** by a licensed gasfitter and an electrician.

Checklist for gasfitters

Checked

Are only certified gas appliances fitted? *(Look for a certification sticker from a recognised certifying body).*

Are fixed ventilation outlets clear and unobstructed?

Are LP Gas cylinders secure and upright?

Are the LP Gas cylinders within the 10-year test period?

Are LP Gas customer information labels fitted adjacent to LP Gas cylinders and appliances?

Has piping been tested at 200kpa for 10 minutes without appliances connected?

Have you made sure the low voltage electrical supply is not connected while the supply lead is coiled up?

Does appliance ventilation and flueing comply with AS 5601 Gas Installations?

Does ventilation for existing flueless room heaters comply with current standards and regulations? *(Installation of new flueless heaters is banned in marine craft. Refer to AS 5601 Gas Installations).*

Have precautions been taken to minimise electrolysis/corrosion to pipe work by the use of insulated clips, grommets etc? *(Refer to AS 5601 Gas Installations).*

Is the LP Gas regulator fitted with overpressure protection?

Does the LP Gas cylinder location comply with current standards and regulations? *(Refer to AS/NZS 1596 The Storage and Handling of LP Gas)*

Does the cylinder compartment ventilation comply with AS 5601 Gas Installations?

Checklist for electricians and boat owners

Checked

Does the low-voltage electrical supply come from one or more 15 amp socket outlets (minimum rating) or sets of direct connection terminals? Are they protected by individual circuit breakers or safety switches?

Is the supply lead a heavy duty flexible cord?

Are all AC circuits RCD protected?

Does the supply lead permit normal movement of the boat at its mooring without undue stress?

Is the supply lead as short as possible (no greater than 25m in length)?

Is the supply lead installed to prevent water flowing along it from reaching the appliance inlet or supply plug?

Have you made sure the low voltage electrical supply is not connected while the supply lead is coiled up?

Is the supply lead set up so that it is not a hazard for people walking near the boat?

Is the supply lead located where it will not be damaged or subjected to high winds?

For further information go to www.esv.vic.gov.au or phone ESV on **1800 652 563**.

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