

MEDIA RELEASE

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Warning: electricity makes DIY deadly

Endeavour Energy today issued a warning to home handy people to be ever-vigilant of the risks of working around electricity in their homes.

“While ‘having a go’ at building and repairs around your home is a great Australian tradition, electricity can make DIY deadly,” said Endeavour Energy’s General Manager Health, Safety and Environment David Neville.

“To stay safe when working around your home, always use a licensed electrician for all work on electrical fittings and appliances inside and outside the home.

“If you don’t, you are not only flouting the law but taking a huge unnecessary risk to the wellbeing of both yourself and your family.”

Mr Neville said the law is clear when it comes to electrical work in homes in NSW.

“An electrical license is required before any electrical wiring work can be undertaken in NSW.

“This includes what many DIY people consider to be simple tasks such as installing new light switches, power points or replacing a broken light fitting.

“Someone who is a qualified licensed electrician has the right skills, tools and equipment to do the job properly and is trained to manage the risks of working on electrical equipment.”

Mr Neville said home handy people also needed to be vigilant while doing other DIY tasks.

“If you are doing non-electrical work, you can still be at risk from electricity.

“Tools such as extension poles and aluminium ladders do not even need to touch powerlines to conduct electricity.

“The first task of any home handyperson is a thorough assessment to identify electrical hazards in the area in which they are working.”

In the garden, Mr Neville recommended keeping well clear of overhead powerlines.

“Trees should never be planted directly under powerlines or electrical connection points.

“If you live in an area with underground power, identify the route of your service line before digging and stay well clear,” Mr Neville said.

For more safety advice, visit www.endeavourenergy.com.au or call 131 003.

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