Hidden cables and pipes: drilling and fixing

About 5 minutes · Read it out, then ask the questions at the end.

> **Why it matters.** Drilling, chasing or fixing into walls, floors and ceilings can hit live cables, gas pipes or water pipes you can't see. A strike can cause electric shock, burns, fire, flooding or a gas leak.

The hazards

- Striking live cables hidden in walls, floors and ceilings
- Hitting gas or water pipes
- Cables in places drawings don't show
- Metal tools and wet conditions making a strike worse

Stay safe

- Check drawings and ask the site manager where services run before you start
- Use a cable detector, and know its limits
- Avoid the zones where cables are likely: straight above, below and across from switches and sockets
- Isolate services before work where you can
- Use tools with insulated grips and keep your hands clear of the bit
- If you hit something, stop, step back and report it. Don't touch damaged cables or pipes

Ask the team

1. How do you find out where services run before drilling?
2. Where in a wall are cables most likely to be?
3. What would you do if you drilled into a cable?

The law and guidance

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989. Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. BS 7671 (cable zones).

General guidance to help you give a toolbox talk. It doesn't replace your site's risk assessments, method statements, permits or training. Check it against your own site rules before you give it.

Free toolbox talk from EW Group, 110V site temps specialists. www.ewgroup.co.uk · Bristol 0117 982 0005 · London 020 7476 0001

ATTENDANCE RECORD

Hidden cables and pipes: drilling and fixing

Site: _____ Date: _____

Given by: _____ Company: _____

By signing, I confirm I attended this toolbox talk and understood it.

Name (print)	Company	Signature	Time

Keep this record with your site's training and briefing records.