Site transformers: safe use

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

> **Why it matters.** Site transformers turn mains power into 110V centre-tapped to earth, so a fault or a cut cable exposes you to 55V at most. That protection only works if the transformer is the right size, in good condition and used properly.

The hazards

- Overloading a transformer with too many tools or lights
- Damaged casings, leads or sockets
- Transformers left in water or puddles
- Plugging 230V equipment into the supply side
- Trip hazards from trailing leads

Stay safe

- Check the transformer and its lead for damage before use
- Know its rating in kVA and don't overload it: add up what's plugged in
- Keep it dry, upright and off wet ground
- Only plug 110V yellow equipment into the yellow outlets
- Route leads where they won't be run over or tripped on
- Switch off and unplug before moving it
- Report a transformer that runs hot, smells or keeps cutting out

Ask the team

1. What size is the transformer you're using, and what's plugged into it?
2. Why is 110V CTE safer than 230V on site?
3. What do you do if a transformer cuts out?

The law and guidance

Electricity at Work Regulations 1989. BS 7375, Distribution of electricity on construction and demolition sites. HSE HSG141.

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

Site transformers: safe use

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.