

PROPS & ELECTRICAL SAFETY

If electricity is used in any scenery, set, prop, hand held device etc. that you are using in your performance in HMT, there are some safety issues you MUST address.

1. **TEST & TAG:** Any 240 volt circuit in your prop, whether mains operated or battery inverter supplied, must be tested and have a current safety compliance tag.
2. **COVERED WIRING:** All wiring for the above circuits must NOT be exposed. IT must be covered up within the prop construction, or run through electrical conduit. The wiring should not be touchable by fingers, and not be damageable by knocks or falling over. Normal flexible power cord can connect the prop to the power point.
3. **POWER CORDS:** Connecting any electrical device to the theatre's power points, must have double insulation. Standard 2 or 3 core power flex, is suitable. "Figure of 8 twin flex" (as used on older table lamps and tape players) is NOT suitable, unless it has a separate outer sheath. NO single wire can be connected to the theatre power points, e.g.: just as an earth wire.
4. **12 volt:** Circuits operating on 12 volts or less do not need the above there requirements. However if a mains operated power supply is used, that part must comply with 1, 2, 3.
5. **BATTERIES:** Batteries used on props must be "sealed "type, and not able to leak when left in any position. Torch Batteries are ok. Sealed lead acid GEL batteries are ok, but need a Risk Assessment. Low or no-maintenance "sealed" automotive batteries are NOT suitable.
6. **LIGHTS:** Glass globes or tubes used to illuminate a prop must be **Protected**. This will require a major re-think of prop construction. They must be built into a recess or trough, with a Perspex or wire mesh "window". Protection means that the globe cannot be damaged by a knock, being stood on, or the prop falling over, or that costume material etc cannot contact the hot surface.
7. **CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHT:** If 240 volt operated (series connections), then they can NOT be used, unless protected as above! If 12 volt or lower operation (parallel connections) also need some protection, but those within a flexible plastic tube could be used as is. (Test & Tag must be done)
8. **LED LIGHTS:** Chains or strings LED's within flexible plastic tubing are very safe, and can be used as is without other protection. (Test & Tag must be done)
9. **MOTORS:** Electric motor operated props – motor, gears, chains etc. must be covered, and the motor operated within its designed loading. Electrical testing and earthing as required. HMT Theatre Tech will need to inspect. Save yourself a lot of trouble and use battery driven devices.
10. **INSPECTION:** Even though a prop has a compliance safety tag, the Theatre Technician will still need to inspect your creation before use, and if deemed unsafe, will deny its operation.
11. **CONNECTING:** To power points, you must ask the Theatre Tech when where and how to connect to your prop. Not all power points are power points.
12. **DRESSING ROOMS:** A reminder that nay 240 Volt appliance you use, eg hair curlers, CD Player must have a safety compliance tag, or else it may be confiscated.