



**Is your  
electric blanket safe?**

*Old or damaged electric  
blankets cause more  
than 5,000 fires a year.  
Make sure your blanket  
is safe . . .*

**dti**

Department of Trade and Industry

**Government consumer safety campaign**

## The danger signs

*Have your blanket checked or replaced if:*

- it displays the *old* BEAB safety mark\*
- the fabric is worn or frayed
- there are scorch marks anywhere
- the tie-tapes (where originally fitted) are damaged or missing
- the flex is worn or damaged
- any connections are loose
- you are in any doubt!



If the plug or mains lead is damaged, make sure this is repaired before you use it. **Remember**, older blankets are much more likely to have one or more of these faults.

\*Blankets that carry the *old* BEAB safety mark, shown above, will be more than 10 years old and will not comply with the latest safety standard.



## 1 Choosing your blanket

- Always buy new. Second-hand blankets may not be safe.
- Look out for a **BEAB** European Certification Mark, such as the *new* BEAB safety mark, on the blanket and packaging. This will mean it conforms to the latest European safety standard.
- Make sure your blanket has an overheating protection system – this offers an extra degree of protection. All new UK blankets now have this feature.

## 2 Using your blanket

- Always read the instructions carefully – **and follow them.**
- Older underblankets, designed only for pre-heating, must be switched off and disconnected before you get into bed. Never use an underblanket as an overblanket. Make sure your underblanket is kept flat. Tie it to the mattress where appropriate.
- Never use the blanket if it's wet, creased or rucked-up. Never switch it on to dry it out.

**3**

### Storing your blanket

- An underblanket can be left tied to the bed all year round if you wish.
- To store an overblanket for the summer, roll it or fold it with as few creases as you can and keep it in a dry place.
- Store separately from other bedding, if possible, or keep on top to avoid bedding pressing down on the blanket.
- Either type of blanket can be stored by putting it on a spare bed – but make sure it stays dry and flat.

**4**

### Routine checks

- Have your blanket checked by an expert at least every three years, or as recommended by the manufacturers.



## **Further information**

Old and damaged electric blankets have caused thousands of fires, which can kill.

If your blanket is more than 10 years old, or if it shows signs of wear and tear, the best advice is to get a new one.

A new one will cost from £15 but will be much, much safer. Alternatively, your local authority may run electric blankets testing days at which you can get your old blanket tested free by an expert. Ask your local Trading Standards department for details of local test days.



Department of Trade and Industry