

Home Safety: Electric Blankets

- When purchasing an electric blanket only buy from a reputable retailer and check that it has the UK Safety standard mark. Do not purchase second hand blankets as they may no longer meet current safety standards.
- Follow the manufacturers instructions carefully and use the blanket only for the intended purpose:
 - Over-blankets positioned above the occupant.
 - Under-blankets positioned under the occupant.
- If your blanket is more than 10 years old, you should consider disposing of it and buying a new one.
- You should replace electric blankets immediately if:
 - Fabric is worn or frayed.
 - Scorch marks or discoloured areas are visible on the fabric.
 - Wires are visible or poking through the fabric.
 - There is damage to the cord between the supply plug and the controller and/or the controller to the blanket.
 - The controller makes a buzzing sound when switched on and/or is giving off a smell.
 - The connector fitted to the blanket is damaged or over-heating.



- **Do not use the blanket whilst it is still folded, rucked or creased or use pins to hold the blanket in place on the bed.**
- **Do not use hot water bottles in bed along with and electric blanket and never touch the blanket with wet hands or feet.**
- **Under-blankets should not be used on adjustable beds so that the blanket and cord do not become trapped and damaged in the hinges or moving parts.**
- **Electric blankets should not be used for infants or by a person who may have a condition that makes them insensitive to heat. People with pacemakers fitted should avoid using heated bedding for all night use.**
- **When not in use store an electric blanket flat if possible (e.g. on a spare bed) or loosely rolled (never folded tightly). Do not place other objects on top of the stored blanket.**
- **When getting the blanket out from storage or when changing the bedclothes, take a few minutes to check it's condition.**
- **Follow manufacturers instructions when cleaning blankets. Never switch a blanket on to dry it out!**

**For more information please contact the Home Safety Officer
T: 028 9034 0160 E: envhealth@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk
Or visit the home safety section on our website:
www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk**