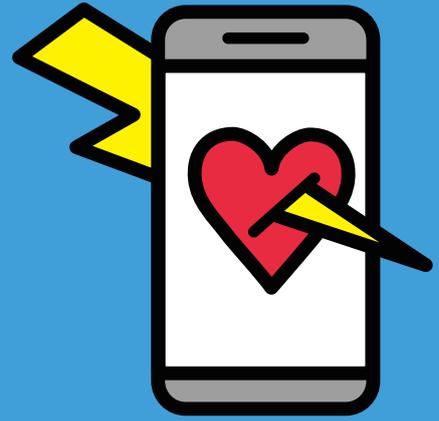


# Thursday: How to avoid damage to your electronics.



Is there any household problem that is more of a fizzer than a circuit overload?

You are enjoying some downtime in front of the TV, sitting next to an electric fan. Someone plugs in the vacuum cleaner to deal with a mess made by the dog and – boom. Now the fridge has stopped cooling and the lights are out too.

We analysed 12 months of claims data – 89,608 car, home and contents claims made between July 2019 to June 2020 – for The Mistake Report. It found that the day you are most likely to suffer damage to your electronic devices is a Thursday.

The most common type of mistake resulting in electronics damage is an overloaded circuit. That means the amount of electricity running through the circuit is more than it can handle.

The good news is that your house is unlikely to burn down, because a breaker will trip or a fuse will blow. The bad news is you might accidentally fry an electrical device.

So what can you do to prevent this common mistake?

First, take a look at what you are asking your system to cope with. If you don't know the amperage of each appliance you have plugged into the mains (and honestly, who does?) there is a useful rule of thumb.

The larger the appliance, the more amperage it likely needs. So, a big-screen TV or standing speakers will use more electricity than a bedside lamp.

To avoid overloading your circuits, redistribute your electrical devices, so they are shared out among other circuits in your home.

Remember not to turn on too many devices at once. If you are about to use the vacuum cleaner, switch off the TV and the music – you won't be able to hear them anyway.

Finally, if you have a circuit that gets particularly heavy use, such as in the garage where you use power tools, get an electrician to install a new, higher amp circuit.



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