

Guidance on Electric Hook-up for Caravans & Tents

LIGHT POWER USE ONLY 10 AMP MAX - **SEE CHART BELOW**

This guide is intended for both new and experienced caravaners & campers using our Electrical HookUps (EHUs) at Spring Valley.

Our hook-ups are via standard blue 240v IP44 electrical connectors protected by a Residual Current Device (RCD) for safety designed to cut off the supply in the event of a fault in your connecting lead, caravan or appliance. Your caravan / camping supply board must also have its own protective RCD and we recommend that you have your electrics checked by a qualified electrician each year. Use only approved cables and run cables around the edge of the field away from vehicle or walkways. If you connect two cables together the joint should be via approved connectors, covered against rain and supported off the ground.

Please note that caravan & camping hookups are designed for light loads and for safety are restricted to a maximum load of 10 Amps only. Many new and experienced campers are unaware that some domestic electrical units are unstable for camping hook-ups. Even some experienced campers try to cut corners and use old domestic appliances in their caravans & tents, but this is false economy and potentially dangerous.

To avoid overloading the circuit breaker and consequential loss of supply, please ensure that the total wattage of the equipment that you have switched on at any one time does not exceed 10 Amps. (see chart below)

Each item of electrical equipment normally has its wattage marked on it.

Beware of using ordinary domestic kettles or fan heaters, some of them can draw over 10 Amps on their own.

Special low wattage appliances are available from camping & caravan dealers.

After pitching your unit, make sure that the **isolating switch in your unit is off**. Connect your cables first to the unit, then the hookup outlet and switch on. Check that your electrical circuits are safe to use with a circuit tester available from most camping dealers. When you are ready to go, **first switch off your isolating switch**, disconnect the cable and remove. Motor caravaners should not leave cables lying around when off pitch.

Any loss of supply should be reported to the campsite manager. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RE-SET THE SUPPLY YOURSELF**. If the loss of supply is because you continue to overload the circuit or misuse equipment there may be a charge for restoring your supply or the supply may be withdrawn.

Key points to note for caravan & tent electrical connections:

- Must have integral RCD (Residual Current Device) and MCB (Miniature Circuit Breaker) IP44 Weatherproof Unit
- Purchase units designed for caravan / camping use. Do not use equipment that seems similar but which may not be.
- It is not advisable to use normal household appliances; purchase appliances designed for camping use.
- Do not attempt to 'make your own' unless you are qualified to do so and fully understand the technical implications.

A typical EHU for use in tents consists of:

A single/triple 13 amp socket(s), a distribution box with a transparent window housing a 10Amp double pole MCB and 25amp RCD. This should be in an integral housing and physically protected to a minimum of IP44. This in turn is connected to cable with a BS EN 60309-2 pin blue plug (Commando Type) at the opposite end. These are sold complete at most reputable camping outlets. They are available with a single socket outlet or three socket outlets.



This is meant as a general guide only. You must take professional advice when using or considering installing electricity in your tent, or caravan.

How much power?

This chart shows how many Watts or Amps normal appliances may use. It is only a guide and power ratings may vary. Add up the Wattage or Amps for each appliance in use

Appliances shown in red are not recommended - they will probably overload the supply & cause it to trip.

Wattage by voltage (240V) + Amperage.

The total should not exceed 2400 watts or 10 amps.

Appliance	Watts	Amps	Appliance	Watts	Amps
Domestic Kettle	2.2kW	9.2	Domestic Microwave	1200	5
Camping Kettle	750	3.2	Camping Microwave	775	3.2
Power supply/charger	125+	0.5 - 1	Water Heater	750	3.2
Electric Heater	2kW - 3kW	8.3 - 12.5	Electric toaster	1200	5
Television	70-150	0.6	Refrigerator	70 - 150	0.6
Air Conditioner	1-2 kW	4 - 8	Light Bulb	60 - 100	0.5
Hair dryer	1.8 kW	7.5	Laptop computer	50	0.2
Electric Grills	2 kW	8.3	Fan / DVD / Stereo / CD	50 - 100	0.2 - 0.4