

Guidance on Electric Hook-up for Caravans & Tents

LIGHT POWER USE ONLY 6 AMP MAX - SEE CHART BELOW

This guide is intended for both new and experienced caravanners & campers using our Electrical HookUps (EHUs) at Branscombe. Our hookups 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 occurring 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

Please note that caravan & camping hookups are designed for light loads and for safety reasons are now restricted to a maximum load of 6 amps only. Many new & inexperienced campers are unaware that some domestic electrical units are unsuitable for camping hookups. 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 of 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 this. (see chart below) Each item of electrical equipment normally has its wattage marked on it. Beware of using ordinary domestic kettles or fanheaters, some of them can draw over 10 amps on their own. Special low wattage appliances are available from camping & caravan dealers. To calculate the current (ampage) divide the wattage by the voltage (240v)

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. It is a good idea to check 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 caravanners should not leave cables lying around when off pitch. Any loss of supply should be reported to the site office. **DO NOT ATTEMPT TO RESET THE SUPPLY YOURSELF** If the loss of supply is because you have overloaded the circuit or misused equipment there may be a charge for restoring your supply or the supply may be withdrawn.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 and do not attempt to cut corners cheaper equipment that seems similar but which in fact 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 suitably 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. You cannot sensibly expect to pay less than £50.00 for the single unit, more for the triple unit, so if anything is selling for less than this, treat it with caution.



This sheet 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 appliances in use. Appliances shown in red are not recommended - they will probably overload the supply & cause it to trip. The total should not exceed 1800 watts or 6 amps.

| Appliance | Watts | Amps | Appliance | Watts | Amps |
|-----------------|--------|------|-----------------------------|--------|----------|
| Domestic Kettle | 2kW | 8.3 | Microwave | 1200 | 5 |
| Camping Kettle | 750 | 3.1 | Carver Water Heater | 660 | 2.75 |
| Electric Heater | 2kW | 8.3 | Electric Toaster | 850 | 3.5 |
| Television | 70-150 | 0.6 | Refridgerator | 70-150 | 0.6 |
| Air Conditioner | 1-2 kW | 4-8 | Light Bulb | 60-100 | 0.5 |
| Hair dryer | 1kW | 4.1 | Laptop computer | 50 | 0.2 |
| Electric Grills | 2kW | 8.3 | Fan / DVD / Stereo / CD etc | 50-100 | 0.2 -0.4 |