

Electrical Safety First No Second Chances Drop In Event

Thanks for attending our event today. We want to help keep your constituents safe when they buy second hand goods online.

- From old products with worn out components and lacking essential modern safety features to recalled white goods, when buying and selling it can be all too easy to forget about safety. People may be unwittingly placing themselves and others at serious risk.
- Whilst other types of second hand products may present their own risks, those posed by electrical goods are both unique and severe including fire and electric shock.
- Fuelled by the ease of online shopping the market for second hand goods is booming without any real regulation. In a person to person sale the consumer rights that we usually take for granted such as a refund cannot be guaranteed.
- Given that the low success rate of product recalls is estimated at 10-20 per cent,¹ it is highly likely that a large number of recalled products are being bought and sold in the second hand goods market.
- In 2017/18 the number of fires caused by electricity was 15,124, which is 54.9% of all accidental domestic fires.²
- Of these, 10,580 (70%) can be attributed to domestic appliances. This has remained the same over the last few years.³
- Five fires a day are caused by white goods across the UK.⁴

In order to reduce these risks from second hand electrical goods, Electrical Safety First would like to see better public awareness of these dangers. You can help by sharing these top tips with your constituents:

- **Always check and never buy** a recalled product - <https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/product-recalls/>
- **Never buy** a second hand electrical product from an individual private seller – your legal rights are minimal
- **Do you trust the seller** – are they an established and reputable business seller?
- **Check reviews if buying online** – do they have a good reputation?
- Is it **complete?** - Does it come with instructions and all parts?
- Finally – **is it safe to buy?** Remember, **if they won't say – walk away**

¹ <https://www.electricalsafetyfirst.org.uk/media/1788/consumer-voices-on-product-recall.pdf>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics>

³ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/fire-statistics>