



DON'T BLOW A FUSE: TOASTERS CAUSE TROUBLE ACROSS THE UK

- More than 2.5 million power outages in the UK attributed to toaster troubles
- 35% of UK homes have appliances over ten years old
- Two in ten people don't know how to fix a simple fuse box issue

New research from home assistance provider [HomeServe](#) has revealed the culprit behind persistent power outages plaguing households in the UK – the humble toaster.

According to HomeServe's findings, a significant number of power disruptions have been directly linked to faulty toasters. The statistics speak for themselves, with more than 2,530,000¹ instances of power outages attributed to these seemingly innocuous kitchen appliances and a number experiencing after effects like a smell of smoke (14%) and even an electrical fire (7%) when appliances blow their fuses. Of course, even without a fire or smell of smoke, a power outage is disruptive - leading to food spoilage, hindering work-from-home setups, and affecting daily routines.

However, despite there being a seemingly simple fix for these electrical hiccups, 21% of respondents admitted uncertainty about how to check and reset a fuse with 6% not even knowing where their fuse box is located.

Top five electrical appliances causing power outages across the UK:

- Toasters (9%)
- Electric kettles (8%)
- Ovens or stoves (7%)
- Lighting fixtures (6%)
- Washing machines (6%)
- Irons (5%)
- Televisions (5%)

¹ 9% of people who took part in the research experienced power outages due to their toaster. According to the [Office for National Statistics](#) there are 28.2 million households in the UK, which equates to 2,530,000 households experiencing outages due to their toaster.

Some of the issues could be down to old appliances, with more than a third (35%) of UK adults acknowledging that some of their appliances are over 10 years old. Around a fifth (17%) share that they feel nervous when it comes to electrical faults, such as flicking on the switch in their fuse box.

Sam Starbuck, Home Expert at [HomeServe](#), says: *"The research highlights the importance of having basic electrical knowledge to ensure that these fuse issues don't escalate into hazards like fires or other serious problems. It's really important to understand fundamental troubleshooting skills to address common electrical issues effectively."*

"At HomeServe, we provide lots of tips on how to do this, including how to locate your fuse box, isolate and fix electrical problems, and recognise when maintenance might be needed. However, if homeowners are unsure or hesitant about handling electrical problems, it's crucial to call a professional. Electrical safety is paramount, and seeking expert assistance can prevent potential hazards."

For advice and guidance on how to fix a tripped fuse, visit HomeServe's step by step guide [here](#).

Notes to editors:

About the research

Unless otherwise stated, data is based on Opinionium commissioned research amongst 2,000 UK adults (18+) in April 2024.

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A little bit about HomeServe

As one of the country's leading home assistance providers, HomeServe has 30 years' experience looking after UK homes. From plumbing, drainage, boiler, heating, or electrics cover to new boilers and one-off repairs, they're always looking for ways to bring you better care for your home, through their range of products and services. With a nationwide network of Home Experts and a claims line that's open 24/7, 365 days a year, you can count on us to be there when it matters most.

Diversity and inclusion

HomeServe is proud to promote equality and inclusion through all their partnerships, including Business in the Community, Stonewall, Race at Work Charter and the Business Disability Forum. In recognition of these efforts, they've become a signatory of the Race at Work Charter, voted Best Place to Work for Women 2020, achieved accreditation to become a Disability Confident Committed employer and are now ranked in the Stonewall Workplace Equality Index. In 2021, HomeServe also earned a place on the list of European Great Places to Work.

To find out more, visit homeserve.co.uk HomeServe - we're on our way.