



Guidance on Campsite Electricity

While many campers enjoy a 'back to basics' approach to camping, there are a few who prefer the creature comforts of a few electrical appliances during their holidays.

When you connect to a campsite electric hook-up point you are able to receive an electricity supply as you would at home.

This will be a nominal 230V, single phase, 50Hz supply, which is compatible with UK and modern European caravans, motorhomes, trailer tents, folding campers and tent hook-up connections.

This electrical supply can be used either directly to power 230V equipment or indirectly via a power supply unit that converts the mains power at 230V AC to a nominal 12V DC, usually in conjunction with a leisure battery. This guide looks at how to use this electricity supply safely and discusses its limitations.

Safety is paramount

Remember that camping on site using a 230V electricity supply within caravans, motorhomes and tents requires even more care than in the home. Because your unit is mobile there is a greater likelihood of things going wrong with an electrical installation than with the fixed installation within your house. It is therefore important you make sure your cables and equipment are maintained in good condition by simple checks every time you use it, by regular inspections by a qualified technician and also by using it in a sensible way.

The Jamboree is responsible for the safety of the electrical supply equipment up to the socket outlet on the supplied distribution equipment where you connect your hook-up cable. You are then responsible for the safety of the hook-up cable and your unit's electrical installation. However, the Essex International Jamboree have an overall responsibility for the safety of all campers while on their site, so if a Member of its staff notes any electrical equipment not conforming to the recommendations or connected to the electrical supply in an unsafe manner he or she is empowered to disconnect that camping unit.



Supply distribution point

The Jamboree recommends you bring a 25m cable with you. A pitch with electrical hook-up will have an electrical hook up point within about 20 metres.

Each hook-up point is individually protected against overload by a miniature circuit breaker (MCB) and a residual current device (RCD). The MCB is a device to protect the site cabling from overloading and limits the amount of current you can draw from the supply. Hook-ups on Essex International Jamboree sites have maximum ratings of 6A and this will limit the number of appliances you can use at one time. The RCD is designed to cut off the supply if a fault occurs in your connecting lead, caravan or other camping unit. However, to maximise safety your unit should have its own RCD. Do not allow children to play around the hook-up installation or supply cable or allow them to connect or disconnect supplies.

Your supply cable

The socket outlets of the Jamboree hook-up points comply with the British Standard BS EN 60309-2. Your connecting lead will need a plug to match this socket outlet and a connector to match the inlet to your unit, both complying with BS EN 60309-2. Sometimes referred to as 'CEE form' or 'Commando'

Suitable leads fitted with the appropriate blue plug and socket are available from most camping or caravan dealers, these connecting leads must be PVC/PVC flexible cable, with three cores, each core being 2.5mm sq cross sectional area (CSA) to be able to cope with a typical 16A connection demand. It is common however to find lesser cables where each core is only 1.5mm sq CSA, these cables are acceptable to use on site as the Maximum current that can be drawn from one of the sub-camp connection units is 6A.

Whichever type of cable you use we highly recommend you fully unwind it to allow any normal heat build up to dissipate and avoid overheating of the cable and possible damage.

Taped cable joints and ordinary 13A household plugs and sockets must not be used under any circumstances.

Connecting up

On arrivals day the on-site electrical team will be on hand to assist you in showing you where to connect your cable.

When you are ready to connect to your hook-up make yourself known to a member of the team and they will assist you in this.

Under no circumstances should connection to the site supply be attempted without a member of the electrical team present.



Disconnecting

When you are ready to leave, switch off the RCD in your unit. Disconnect the cable from the hook-up outlet socket and then remove the cable from your unit.

Loss of supply

Report any supply issues to your Sub-Camp help desk as soon as possible. If the loss of supply is due to overloading or misuse of your equipment, the electrical team will discuss the issue with you. Persistent misuse may lead to disconnection of your supply without a refund. In the event of a power loss caused by Essex International Jamboree's electrical equipment failure, the team will endeavour to restore the supply promptly. However, the Essex International Jamboree is not liable for any damage to equipment, goods, or loss of food in fridges resulting from supply interruptions. Campers should take precautionary measures to minimise potential losses, especially regarding perishable items stored in electric fridges.

How much power?

Essex International Jamboree are able to provide a 6A electrical supply, this supply is capable of powering low power equipment such as lighting, camping fridges and charging mobile phones/laptops.

It would **NOT** be suitable for large power equipment such as a Burco, kettle, electric hob, deep fat fryer, hairdryer or a heater. In comparison, a modern domestic kitchen typically has a power supply of 20A, plus a separate electric cooker supply and a lighting supply. Hence, when camping, to keep within the limits of the campsites 6A supply and prevent a loss of supply you need to be careful about the appliances you use and how many you use at one time.

You need to ensure the total rated wattage (rated power) of equipment switched on at any one time is less than the power supplied to you. Power (in W) = voltage (in V) x current (in A), so for a 6A hook-up, $230V \times 6A = 1,380W$, hence 1,380W (approx. 1.4kW) of power can be supplied to your unit.

The Essex International Jamboree supply is designed on the basis of diversity so the main supply to Sub-Camps is geared up to an average electrical usage, not all hook-ups taking 6A at one time. Just occasionally, at times of high occupancy and all users switch on electrical appliances at the same time, you may suffer reduced power or even a power cut, so it is important to use electricity responsibly.



Electricity in tents and awnings

UK wiring regulations require special measures if electricity is to be used in outdoor locations and as conditions in tent and awnings can often be damp and affected by condensation, it is only sensible to take special measures in these situations.

The important thing to remember is that water and electricity do not mix. Even small amounts of water or condensation in conjunction with an electrical supply will result in a risk of nuisance tripping, fire or electrocution. Keep all electrical equipment off the ground and be prepared to stop using electricity when conditions are damp or wet. Use electricity only when someone is present and unplug appliances and replace the covers over the socket outlets when you leave the tent.

Because of these special conditions it is essential to use a proprietary electric hook-up device, manufactured specifically for tent hook-ups. These devices have one, two or three domestic-style three-pin socket outlets and a control box with safety features incorporating miniature circuit breakers (MCBs) and a residual circuit breaker (RCD).

Remember also that most appliances you use will have been designed for the domestic environment and may therefore be vulnerable to condensation.

PAT Testing

PAT Testing of electrical equipment brought to site by groups and individuals **is not required** but users of electrical equipment should have some measure of responsibility themselves for the safety and condition of the electrical items that they are bringing and using. We would suspect that most items will be domestic items that most people would use at home daily anyway. 'The Electricity at Work Regulations 1989 require that any electrical equipment that has the potential to cause injury is maintained in a safe condition. However, the Regulations do not specify what needs to be done, by whom or how frequently (i.e. they don't make inspection or testing of electrical appliances a legal requirement, nor do they make it a legal requirement to undertake this annually).'

If we see any unsafe items then obviously we will stop people using them, but largely we are supplying the electrical installation and its tested up to that point and every user is responsible themselves for what they plug into it.

The Essex International Jamboree is not responsible for any electrical item that users plug into their electrical system, it is solely the users responsibility for the safety and safe/correct operation of the equipment that they are using.



Terms & Conditions

1. Arrival: Campers must register at the Staff Sub Camp helpdesk before entering the sub-camp campsite area.
2. Caravans, awnings, and tents must be contained within the pitch allocated.
3. Users must not exceed the maximum power loading of 6 Amps on pitch electrical supplies.
4. The Jamboree is responsible for the safety of the electrical system up to the socket on the distribution hook-up point. It is the responsibility of the Camper to ensure that the plug, cable and associated sockets used to connect between the hook-up point to the Camper's unit is safe and that any appliance/equipment plugged into the electrical system is also safe.
5. Do not let children play around the electric hook-up points or cables.
6. The use of personal petrol, diesel or LPG generators at the Jamboree is not permitted. If you do attempt to use one, you WILL be asked to turn it off and disconnect the power. The risk of fire presented by third party generators to the event is too great therefore, the best thing you can do is leave them at home.
7. The Jamboree will not be held responsible for any damage caused to equipment/appliances plugged into any of its electrical systems
8. The Jamboree will not be held responsible for any loss of power to your tent or caravan regardless of the cause. The electrical supply to your caravan or tent is being provided on a best endeavours basis and whilst everything will be done to ensure a constant and consistent electrical supply, this cannot be guaranteed.
9. Failure to comply with these conditions may result in you being disconnected from the power supply at any time without refund.