Red tape costing homeowners £240 on 'Do It Your Self' jobs

Wednesday 2 January, 2013

Plans to scrap Government Red tape surrounding simple DIY jobs such as changing a plug socket will come into effect this April and will save homeowners an estimated £240 each year in council approval fees.

The new legislation was approved by Government shortly before Christmas and will officially come into force April 2013 across the United Kingdom. Simple 'Do It Your Self Jobs' which normally cost homeowners will soon be approval free.

Here are some of the current DIY jobs which need council approval:

- adding a socket to a kitchen, and
- installing a new security light or a lawnmower socket in the garden.

Under current rules obtaining council approval for such jobs costs around £240 each time, or more.

Riskier jobs such as work near baths and showers, installing new circuits and house rewires will continue to require approval from councils' building control departments or be carried out by an electrician registered to approve their own work.

Communities Minister Don Foster said:

"Lots of people will have made it a new year resolution to fix or improve their home's electrics, but they are often put off by the bureaucratic costs. I am cutting red tape to allow people to get on with making simple and safe improvements without having to spend hundreds of pounds on getting the council's approval. Safety is the number one concern though and riskier jobs will always need to be signed off."

Mr Foster also urged people to stay safe and continue using common sense saying:

"I urge anyone who is either inexperienced at DIY or in doubt as to what they are doing to always consult a professional. Using a competent electrician is the simplest way to ensure you and your family remain safe. That's why I'll be working with industry and others to see what more we can do to get this simple message across."

Mr Foster also acknowledged that many people - mainly married men like him - were going to lose an excuse for not getting on with their list of jobs around the home.

The changes are part of a package of measures to clarify and update the building regulations that will also save businesses £50 million a year. Taking over 400,000 electrical jobs out of the system annually contributes to savings to electrical firms of around £14 million per year.

Notes to editors

- The changes to electrical safety were included in a package of deregulatory measures announced to Parliament on 18 December 2012.

- A consultation in January 2012 sought views on electrical safety.

- The deregulation package also delivers other savings to business including:{/bold}

- bringing together currently separate guidance on how to design stairs and ramps so they are both safe and accessible - saving £4.4 million.

- Updating fire safety guidance for lighting diffusers - saving £26.3 million.

- Making the building control system more efficient and to extending the scope of competent person schemes - saving £6 million.

Related Sectors:

Business & Finance :: Public Sector & Legal ::

Related Keywords:

DIY Red Tape :: Government ::

Scan Me:

Company Contact:

_

Falcon PR

T. 01617433638
E. hello@falcon-pr.co.uk
W. https://www.falcon-pr.co.uk/

View Online

Newsroom: Visit our Newsroom for all the latest stories:
https://www.falcon-pr.pressat.co.uk