Rewiring

Everything you need to know before rewiring your home

Why rewire?

Whether you are renovating, buying a property, or simply aware that your electrics are showing their age, a rewire is one of the best investments you can make in your home's safety, functionality and future-proofing. At Greentec, we carry out both full and partial rewires, tailored to suit your property, your lifestyle and your long-term plans.



Pictures show an ageing installation wired using VIR (vulcanised Indian rubber).

Signs you may need a rewire

- Old-style fuseboard with rewireable fuses
- Sockets in skirting boards
- Black rubber (VIR) cabling
- Lack of earthing at sockets or light fittings
- Flickering lights, discolouration on switches, or dated accessories
- Electrics over 25–40 years old (the recommended lifespan)

If you're unsure, a pre-work Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) can tell you exactly what condition your installation is in.

Common cable types and when they were used

Many homes still contain legacy wiring that was safe at the time of installation but no longer meets modern safety standards, or has simply degraded over time.

CABLE TYPE	INSTALLED BETWEEN	ISSUES AND RISKS
VIR (vulcanised Indian rubber)	Pre-1960s	Rubber insulation perishes, becomes brittle and cracks. Often installed in metal conduit. **High fire risk.** Needs full replacement.
Tinned copper twin and earth	1950s–1960s	Often still in good condition **if undisturbed**, but has no CPC (earth wire) on lighting circuits. **Not suitable for modern installations.**
Early PVC twin and earth (no CPC)	1960s–early 1970s	Still used in many homes. **Lighting circuits may have no CPC**, making them unsuitable for modern light fittings or accessories.
Standard PVC twin and earth (with CPC)	Mid 1970s–present	Generally safe if installed correctly and undamaged. Still used today. May still need replacing if undersized or damaged.

Lighting circuits with no CPC

A CPC (circuit protective conductor) is the earth wire that protects you from shock in the event of a fault.

Many homes wired in the 1960s and early 1970s have lighting circuits with no CPC at all. While this was legal at the time, it is now considered unsafe, especially with modern Class I metal light fittings and switches.

If your lighting has no earth, it limits what fittings can be installed and, more importantly, increases risk. We'll test this as part of any condition report or rewire assessment and advise you clearly if it needs replacing.

Rewiring an occupied or unoccupied property

	OCCUPIED PROPERTY	UNOCCUPIED PROPERTY
PRO	You don't have to leave your home during the work	Faster and more efficient completion, with no need to work around people or furniture
PRO	Allows close day-to-day communication during the project	Less risk of damage to belongings or décor
PRO	You can make real-time layout decisions as the job progresses	More flexible working hours and easier access for the team
CON	Takes longer, and extra care is needed to protect furnishings, flooring and daily life	You'll need to arrange alternative accommodation (friends, family, hotel, holiday, etc.)
CON	Cost is higher because of the extra time and disruption management, and power must be restored each day	Limited ability for you to check in on decisions day to day, unless pre-arranged

GREENTEC TIP

If possible, staying away during a rewire is more efficient and cost-effective, especially for full rewires. That said, we will always work with you to minimise disruption and keep your home safe and tidy, whichever route you choose.

How we install: neat, respectful and future-proof

- We chase cables into walls wherever possible, with no trunking unless absolutely necessary.
- We don't plaster or decorate, but we can arrange trusted local plasterers if you'd like us to.
- A new consumer unit with individual RCBOs and surge protection is always included.
- We install hard-wired smoke detectors as standard (unless you ask us not to).
- We can run structured data cabling to support smart home systems, streaming and working from home.

Planning your perfect electrical layout

We don't just install; we help you plan your electrics around how you actually live. We'll walk through questions like:

- How many sockets do you need per room?
- Where do you want light switches, USB sockets, dimmers or zone lighting?
- Any plans for smart lighting, CCTV, under-cabinet lighting or future expansion?

> **The most expensive part of any rewire is the socket, switch or light you realise you needed after the plastering is finished.** That's why we spend time upfront helping you get the layout right: no guesswork, no regrets.

What you'll receive after the work

- A full Electrical Installation Certificate (EIC)
- A Building Regulations Compliance Certificate (Part P)
- A clearly labelled consumer unit and documented test results
- Peace of mind that your installation is fully compliant and safe

Our promise to you

Every Greentec rewire is covered by our 12-month workmanship warranty, running from the invoice date: if anything goes wrong as a result of how we installed it, we'll put it right. All equipment and accessories are covered by the manufacturer's warranty, and we only use trusted, reputable brands we believe in.

> **GET IN TOUCH**
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> Call **01892 457437** / **07763 730171**, email info@greentecelectrical.co.uk or visit www.greentecelectrical.co.uk.
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> Greentec Electrical Ltd is based in Tunbridge Wells and serves Kent and East Sussex.