

# Guidance on Electric Hook-up for Caravans & Tents

LIGHT POWER USE ONLY 6 AMP MAX - SEE CHART BELOW

This guide is for caravanners & campers using our Electrical HookUps (EHUs) at Grandtully. Our outlets are standard blue 240v IP44 electrical connectors protected by a Residual Current Device (RCD) for safety designed to cut off the supply in the event of a fault in your connecting lead, caravan or appliance. Your caravan / camping supply board must also have its own protective RCD and we recommend that you have your electrics checked by a qualified electrician each year. Use only approved cables and run cables around the edge of the field away from vehicle or walkways. If you connect two cables together the joint should use approved connectors, covered against rain and supported off the ground.

Our hookups are designed for light loads and for safety are restricted to a maximum load of 6 Amps. Some domestic appliances are unsuitable. Even some experienced campers try to cut corners and use domestic appliances in their caravans & tents but this is false economy and potentially dangerous. To avoid overloading the circuit breaker and consequential loss of supply please ensure that the total wattage of the equipment that you have switched on at any one time does not exceed 6 Amps. (see chart below) Each item of electrical equipment normally has its wattage marked on it. Do not use ordinary domestic kettles or fan heaters; these can draw over 10 Amps. Special low wattage appliances are available from camping & caravan dealers. To calculate the current (Amps) divide the wattage by the voltage (240V)

After pitching your unit, make sure that the isolating switch in your unit is off. Connect your cables first to the unit, then the hookup outlet and switch on. Check that your electrical circuits are safe to use with a circuit tester available from most camping dealers. When you are ready to go first switch off your isolating switch, disconnect the cable and remove. Motor caravanners should not leave cables lying around when off pitch. Any loss of supply should be reported to the campsite manager. IF YOU OVERLOAD YOUR SUPPLY THE BREAKER IN THE OUTLET POD WILL TRIP OFF. DISCONNECT EXTRA APPLIANCES BEFORE RE-SETTING THE BREAKER IN THE OUTLET POD. If the loss of supply is because you have overloaded the circuit or misused equipment there may be a charge for restoring your supply or the supply may be withdrawn.

## Key points to note for caravan & tent electrical connections:

- Must have integral RCD (Residual Current Device) and MCB (Miniature Circuit Breaker) IP44 Weatherproof Unit
- Purchase units designed for caravan / camping use. Do not use equipment that seems similar but which may not be.
- It is not advisable to use normal household appliances; purchase appliances designed for camping use.
- Do not attempt to 'make your own' unless you are qualified to do so and fully understand the technical implications.

## A typical EHU for use in tents consists of:

A single/triple 13 amp socket(s), a distribution box with a transparent window housing a 10Amp double pole MCB and 25amp RCD. This should be in an integral housing and physically protected to a minimum of IP44. This in turn is connected to cable with a BS EN 60309-2 pin blue plug (Commando Type) at the opposite end. These are sold complete at most reputable camping outlets. They are available with a single socket outlet or three socket outlets. You cannot sensibly expect to pay less than £50.00 for the single unit, more for the triple unit, so if anything is selling for less than this, treat it with caution. Take professional advice when using or considering installing electricity in your tent, or caravan.



## How much power?

This chart shows how many Watts or Amps normal appliances may consume. It is only a guide and power ratings may vary. Add up the Wattage or Amps for each appliance in use. The total should not exceed 1800 watts or 6 amps.

**Appliances shown in red are not recommended - they will probably overload the supply & cause it to trip.**

Appliance	Watts	Amps
Domestic Kettle	2kW	8.3
Camping Kettle	750	3.1
Electric Heater	2kW	8.3
Television	70-150	0.6
Air Conditioner	1-2 kW	4-8
Hair dryer	1 kW	4.1
Electric Grills	2 kW	8.3

Appliance	Watts	Amps
Microwave	1200	5
Carver Water Heater	660	2.75
Electric Toaster	850	3.5
Refrigerator	70-150	0.6
Light Bulb	60-100	0.5
Laptop computer	50	0.2
Fan / DVD / Stereo / CD	50-100	0.2 – 0.4