



PRESS RELEASE

DRYING OUT? DON'T BE FOOLED INTO EXPENSIVE REPAIRS!

Middlesex, July 2007 – People trying to get their homes back to normal after the floods subside should beware of rogue tradesmen trying to sell them more than they need, warn *gas-elec*, the national home safety inspection organisation.

The first move when re-entering the house, they say should be to turn off your power supplies at the mains – whether they are still working or not – to make the house safe and stop further degradation of the installations.

The next stage is to find out as soon as possible what exactly damage has been done. And the only way to do this, says *gas-elec*, is to get an inspection by a reputable – and preferably independent company. The damage may not be as bad as you think, so don't rush and be talked into anything you don't need.

Take the case of a pair of *gas-elec* customers who recently suffered flood damage to their country cottage. Their insurance company asked them to get quotes for repairs; the electrics were totally non-operational so, with the help of their agent, they asked a local contractor to give them a quote for re-wiring. The local contractor was very efficient and gave them exactly what they asked for – a quotation to re-wire at a cost of £2,800.

The agent then suggested a second quote for comparison. He phoned the *gas-elec* local manager who recommended a full periodic electrical inspection to determine what was actually damaged before any decision was taken on a rewire.

Water damage, he said, is sometimes temporary and, once dried out, the property could be OK.

Apart from revealing some dampness inside a couple of light fittings, the inspection showed that the installation was safe and did not require any repair work. And the only bill was one for £125, for which the customers also received a certificate to prove the electrics were safe.

So the moral is: Be careful what you ask for. If you ask for an estimate for a rewire, that's what you'll get. It is much better to have your electrics tested properly in accordance with IEE wiring regulations.

For more information call your local *gas-elec* office on 0800 587 9999, or go to www.gas-elec.co.uk.

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Editor's Notes

Founded in 1996, **gas-elec** carries out impartial safety inspections and light remedial works. Its unique inspection service provides the residential lettings market with multiple inspections of the gas and electrics in just one visit. **gas-elec** has over 126 franchisees operating from 18 regional offices, who this year will carry out more than 120,000 safety inspections in domestic properties throughout the UK. For more information visit www.gas-elec.co.uk.

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