

Electrical Inspection and Testing of Electrical Equipment.

Where Pat testing is required this is undertaken by a qualified electrician who test and certifies the equipment is legal and safe.

For low risk environments only the following indicates whether or not user checks, visual inspection or electrical testing (PAT) is required and the suggested inspection and testing intervals.

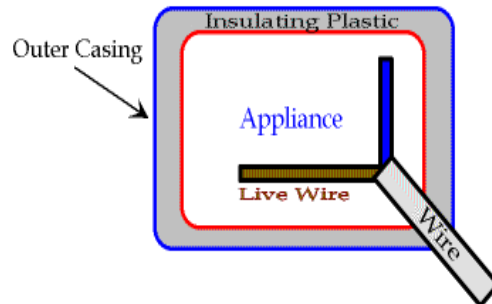
It is easy to determine whether or not a piece of electrical equipment is double insulated (see below).

1.

Equipment / environment	User check	Formal visual inspection	Combined inspection and testing
Battery operated (less than 20 volts)	NO	NO	NO
Extra low voltage (less than 50 volts AC) e.g. telephone equipment, low voltage desk lights.	NO	NO	NO
Information technology: e.g. desk top computer, VDU screens.	NO	YES (2-4 years)	NO if double insulated YES Otherwise (up to 5 years)
Double insulated equipment: NOT hand held. Moved occasionally, e.g. fans, projectors, table lamps.	NO	YES (2-4 years)	NO
Earthed equipment (class 1) e.g. electric kettles,	YES	YES (6 months -1 year)	YES (1 – 2 years)
Cables (leads) & plugs connected to earthed equipment. Extension leads (mains voltage)	YES	YES (6 months - 4 years Depending on type of equipment connected to)	YES (1 – 5 years Depending on type of equipment connected to)

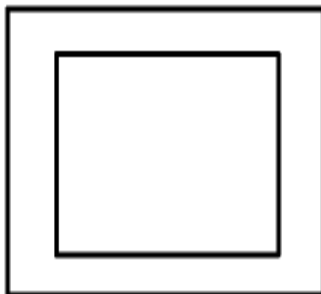
2.1 Double insulation of electrical appliances

An appliance which is double insulated has the whole of the inside contained in plastic, underneath an outer casing. If anything goes wrong with the appliance, no live conductor can touch the outer casing because of the insulating plastic.



Appliances which are double insulated include electric drills and hairdryers.

The symbol for double insulation is shown below.



You will see this symbol printed on the appliance which is double insulated.

Double insulated appliances DO NOT need to be PAT tested.