

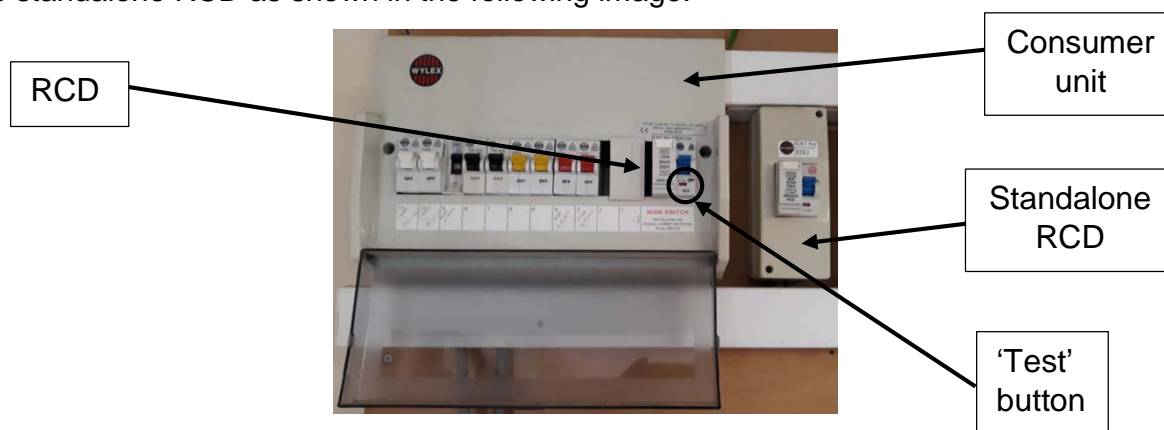
## CONSUMER ADVICE – RCD ‘BREAKER’ TESTING EVERY SIX MONTHS

An RCD more commonly referred to as ‘breaker’ is a residual current detector. It is a life saving device that will trip to isolate your electricity supply if you come into contact with faulty appliances or cut into any electrical cables, preventing you from getting a fatal electric shock. It can also provide some protection against electrical fires. It is therefore very important that they are regularly checked to ensure they are working.

**RCDs will give you protection that ordinary fuses and circuit-breakers cannot provide.**

All electrical installations for households and commercial buildings must conform to the latest edition of the IET Wiring Regulations (currently 18<sup>th</sup> Edition). One of these regulations, namely 514.12.2, requires that you test your RCD every six months by pressing the button marked ‘T’ or ‘Test’ on your RCD. The test should trip the RCD switch turning off the electricity supply. Once this happens, the power can then be restored by manually pushing the RCD switch back into the up position. If you are not sure what your RCD is, seek advice from your electrician.

Your electrical installation may have one or two RCDs for protection within your consumer unit or a separate standalone RCD as shown in the following image.



To remind you to test the RCD on your consumer unit, the following notice no smaller than the example shown, should be fixed in a permanent position on or near your consumer unit.

This installation, or part of it, is protected by a device which automatically switches off the power supply if an earth fault develops. **Test six-monthly** by pressing the button marked ‘T’ or ‘Test’. The device should switch off the supply and should be switch on to restore the supply. If the device does not switch off the supply when the button is press seek expert advice.

If there is a case where you are suddenly without electricity, in the first instance please check your RCD or ‘breaker’ to see whether it has tripped. If it has, push the switch back to the up position and you should have power restored. If it immediately trips again, this means that an appliance in your home has a fault and you will need to contact your electrician. However, if there is a fault on the outside lines, please contact our Connect office on 22255 during working hours or our out of hours number 22602 and we will respond accordingly.

