



Which home improvements are best left to the professionals?

Tiling



RED

- applying screed
- cutting stone or porcelain tiles
- plastering walls
- boxing in pipes
- tiling complex corners/shapes



AMBER

- replacing damaged tiles
- re-grouting
- levelling floors
- ceramic tiling on straight surfaces
- cutting ceramic tiles



GREEN

- cleaning tiles and grouting
- design and layout of tiles

Always allow more time than you think for tiling. It can be a fiddly job, particularly if you've got to work around corners or awkward shapes. See our [tiling guide](#) for more details.

Carpentry



RED

- installing solid wooden floors
- installing floors in a hallway or complex-shaped room
- constructing and installing a fitted wardrobe
- making sash-window frames
- building a shed from scratch
- hanging doors
- fitting kitchen or other units



AMBER

- installing laminate or engineered floors (in a square room)
- putting up a floating shelf
- boarding a loft
- installing a fence panel
- building stud walls
- fitting architraves and skirting



GREEN

- assembling flat-pack furniture
- putting up a shelf with brackets

Avoid complications that may add extra time and costs - head to our advice on [common carpentry jobs](#).

Electrics



RED

- installing a new consumer unit (fuse-box)
- installing new circuits
- electrical safety checks
- installing new sockets
- installing new light fittings
- installing ventilation systems



AMBER

- installing white goods such as electric ovens, microwaves, fridges, freezers
- replacing a light socket
- changing light fittings



GREEN

- changing a plug
- changing light bulbs
- testing an RCD (residual control device)
- installing a smoke alarm
- testing a smoke alarm

We don't recommend attempting any complex electrical installation work yourself. Regulations state you must be competent to carry out electrical work - if you are in any doubt about whether you have the skill to tackle a particular job, it's better to call in a professional. Read our guide to [hiring an electrician](#) for more.

Domestic electrical installation work that is covered by part-P regulations must be signed-off by building control, unless it's carried out by a registered electrician. For more details see our [guide to building regulations](#).