

Headline	Beware deadly water heaters		
MediaTitle	Malay Mail		
Date	02 Jan 2015	Language	English
Circulation	35,000	Readership	105,000
Section	Letters	Page No	16
ArticleSize	201 cm ²	Journalist	N/A
PR Value	RM 5,010		



Beware deadly water heaters

WATER heaters can kill. They have and will. My plea is that who develops these products do it right while complying with regulations of the Energy Commission.

Any sub-standard products can bring harm to users, even death. Consumers can't accept this. They want to live using water heaters.

Electricity does not see who you are, or what colour or creed. You misuse it, it strikes.

Consumers should note that there can be trouble with wrongly fitted appliances.

These aren't do-it-yourself tasks. Get a registered contractor to do it. Safety is important and there are rules to follow.

Tenaga Nasional has advised that these electrical appliances be properly fitted and that use of these products comply with safety rules in existence.

According to the commission, a ban on the use of metallic hoses on water heaters was imposed in 2012, but sadly a few have adhered to the ruling. How can we allow safety to be disregarded?

Manufacturers that make sub-standard electrical goods and apparatus should be severely punished as they bring harm and danger to consumers. They should be put out of business.

It is time there be clear safety rules for the use of water heaters. There are about half a million water heaters in Malaysian homes, among the highest per capita population in the world.

Despite our dependence on water heaters,

and to a lesser extent storage and solar water heater systems, Malaysians have not learned how to protect themselves from the dangers associated with the appliance. But they should. Experts say there is a lack of education and awareness here.

Can we do nothing and let things be?

About 80 per cent of Malaysians were still in the dark over the need for safety and additional safety measures for electrical appliances, especially that of water heaters.

Since 2009, there have been no less than 10 reported cases of death by electrocution. This is no small figure. Consumer safety should be a priority. We do not like deaths in use of water heaters.

Although manufacturers of water heaters are required to comply with the standards, many have failed to do.

How come they are allowed to escape? It is time actions are taken against them.

As a safety measure, consumers should install the residual current circuit breakers (RCCB) to your water heaters

The standard is the 100mA RCCB but in some old houses, we can still find the 500mA version.

And there is an easy way to check if the RCCB is in working condition. Press the "test" button and if it trips, it is okay for use, not otherwise.

BULBIR SINGH
SEREMBAN

