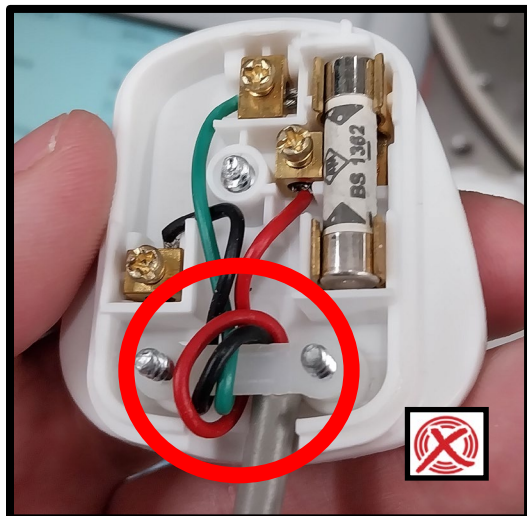


Outer sheath not secured  
(Visual check)



Excess wiring inside plug  
(PAT)

## Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) and User Visual Checks

The principal purpose of Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) is to ensure that portable electrical appliances are safe to use, thus minimising accidents and injuries in the workplace.

**All items brought onto site should be tested before they are used.** Contact [facilities@eng.cam.ac.uk](mailto:facilities@eng.cam.ac.uk) to arrange a PAT.

The PAT requirement will also apply to in-house built equipment. Modified equipment will require a PAT retest.

Users of electrical equipment should check that there are no signs of damage or interference with that equipment before it is used and also when it is moved to a new location.

### A simple visual check can detect potential problems:

- ✓ Check that the equipment has an up-to-date 'PAT' test label
- ✓ Is there damage (apart from very light scuffing) to the cable sheath
- ✓ Is the plug or socket damaged
- ✓ Is there any inadequate or non-standard joint(s), including taped joint(s) in the cable
- ✓ Is the outer sheath of the cable effectively secured where it enters the plug or the equipment
- ✓ Is there any damage to the external casing of the equipment or any loose parts or screws
- ✓ Is there a panel or cover missing i.e. can any live parts be easily accessed
- ✓ Is there evidence of overheating (burn marks or discolouration)

If a faulty item causes a fire it might not just be equipment and research that is lost, but the whole lab may be lost too.



For more information scan QR code: **Electricity – Guidance for Working Safely with Electricity**  
<https://www.safety.admin.cam.ac.uk/system/files/hsd001p.pdf>