HUMA ZAREEF INTERIORS

Before first fix checklist

Work through this with your drawings before your electrician starts. Once the walls are plastered, moving a socket or switch means chasing walls and redecorating. Before first fix, it's just a line on a plan.

1. Start with the furniture

- [ ] Mark where the sofa, bed, bedside tables, dining table, desk, TV and sideboard will actually sit in each room.
- [ ] Check door swings on the plans, so nothing important ends up behind a door.
- [ ] Note what will live on the kitchen worktop: kettle, toaster, coffee machine, mixer, air fryer.
- [ ] Decide where phones, laptops and tablets will be charged day to day.

2. Room by room

Hallway

- [ ] Socket for the vacuum that reaches the stairs
- [ ] Charging spot by the door, if you want one
- [ ] Power for doorbell, alarm or Wi-Fi equipment

Living room

- [ ] Sockets at both ends of the sofa (lamps, chargers)
- [ ] TV wall: power and TV points where the screen and media unit will be
- [ ] Socket near any corner with a floor lamp
- [ ] Sofa in the middle of the room? Ask your electrician whether a floor socket suits your floor

Kitchen

- [ ] Sockets in each work zone, where you prepare food
- [ ] Island: power on the working side, clear of stools and knees
- [ ] Fixed appliances: connections specified by your kitchen fitter and electrician

Dining area

- [ ] Socket by the sideboard for a lamp
- [ ] Pendant point centred over where the table will sit

Bedrooms

- [ ] Sockets on both sides of the bed, just above bedside table height
- [ ] Can the main light be switched off from the bed?
- [ ] Power at a dressing table or mirror
- [ ] TV socket positioned from the bed, if wanted

Home office

- [ ] Sockets just above desk height: computer, monitor, lamp, chargers
- [ ] Power for a printer or router where it will actually sit

Utility room

- [ ] Washer and dryer connections, as specified by your electrician
- [ ] Worktop socket for an iron

Stairs, landing and outside

- [ ] Two-way switching at the top and bottom of the stairs
- [ ] Landing socket for the vacuum
- [ ] Outside lights by the doors; any garden sockets or electric car charger planned with your electrician

3. Switches and lighting

- [ ] Every light switch is on the side of the door you walk in, not behind the door.
- [ ] Two-way switching on stairs, landings and in bedrooms, so you never cross a dark room.
- [ ] Each main room has more than one kind of light: ceiling, wall lights, lamps or joinery lighting.
- [ ] Lamp sockets that can come on together from the door, if you'd like softer evening light.
- [ ] Reading lights where someone will actually read; bedside lights that follow the bed.

4. Heights

- [ ] For each socket and switch, note what will sit in front of it and choose a height to suit.
- [ ] Agree with your electrician where heights are measured from (the floor often isn't finished at first fix).
- [ ] Ask your electrician to confirm the heights meet the regulations for your type of project.

> **New homes in England:** Approved Document M (paragraph 1.18) says switches and sockets serving habitable rooms should have their centre line between 450mm and 1200mm above floor level. This requirement doesn't apply to extensions. Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have their own regulations.

5. Brief your electrician

- [ ] Share your marked-up plans, with each socket, switch and light labelled with what it's for.
- [ ] Ask which work needs notifying under Part P (in England, for example a new circuit, a new consumer unit or work near a bath or shower) and who will certify it.
- [ ] Ask about any special rules for bathrooms, near sinks and hobs, and outside.
- [ ] Agree how changes will be marked and confirmed before plastering.

Questions for my electrician

Rather decide it together? In a 90-minute live online consultation (£495), Huma reviews your plans first, then you decide together where every socket, switch and light goes, room by room. You leave with a decision sheet for your electrician. **humazareef.co.uk/design-consultation**

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General design guidance, not professional electrical advice. Your electrician is responsible for the technical installation, safety and compliance. Regulation references checked 25 November 2026 against Approved Document M Vol 1 (2015 incl. 2016 amendments) and Approved Document P (2013).