

Accessories must be mounted at a height that will make them accessible but minimize the risk of mechanical damage by their being struck by floor cleaning equipment or the movement of furniture, and allow a comfortable bending radius for larger or stiff flexes. The Building Regulations 2000 Approved Document M (for England and Wales), Access and facilities for disabled people, contains appropriate mounting heights between 450mm and 1200mm for electrical equipment in dwellings (see figure C1). The Scottish Buildings Standards specify similar requirements.

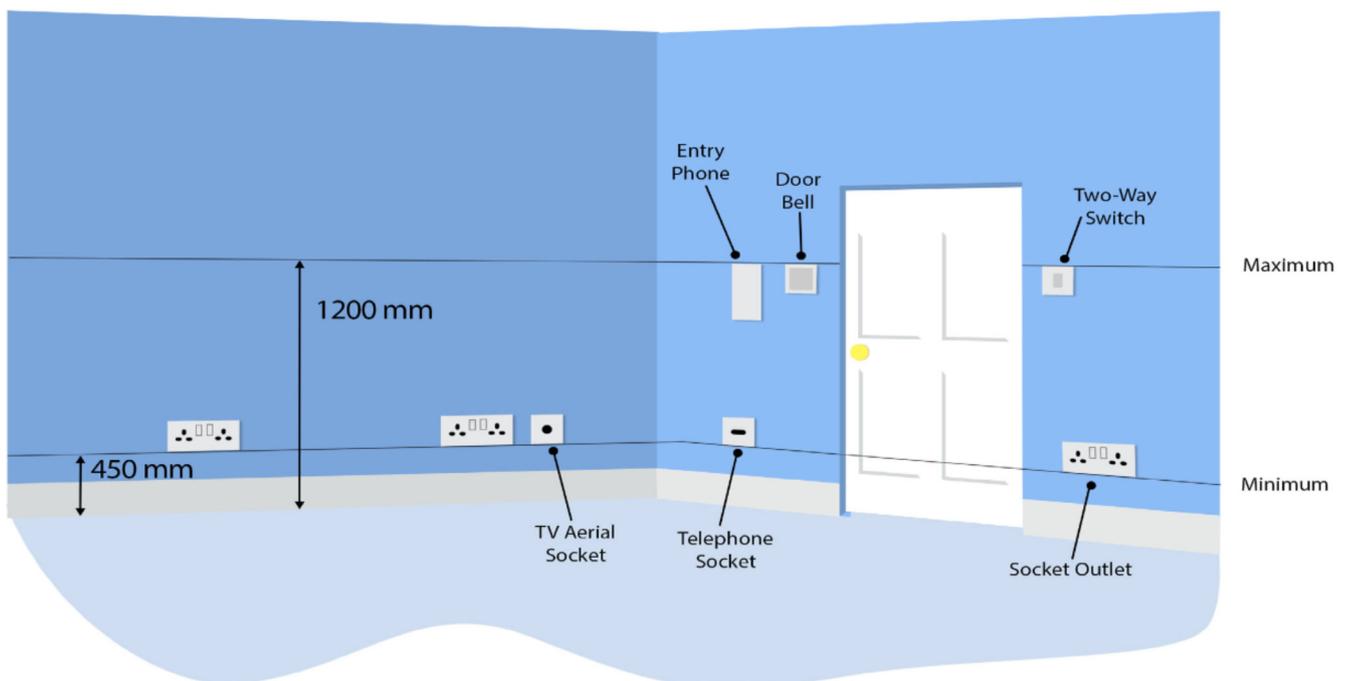


Figure C1 : Height of switches, sockets etc. (See Approved Document M, section 8)

10.5.2 Location of outlets, switches, controls and meters

All outlets, switches and controls, including two-way switching, should be positioned consistently in relation to doorways and corners within a building and in a logical sequence to suit passage through the building.

Note 1: By using vertical strips as switches instead of single height switches, users can operate the switch at whichever height is convenient for them.

Preferably, light switches should align horizontally with door handles for ease of location when entering a room.

Electrical socket-outlets, telephone points and TV sockets should be located at least 400mm but not more than 1000mm above the floor. Socket outlets located at the top of the range (see figure below).

Note 2: Switches close to the floor or skirting are difficult and dangerous because they require users to stoop or kneel to operate them. The higher the socket-outlet, the easier it is to push in or pull out the plug.

Switches for permanently wired appliances (e.g. fused spurs or reset switches for alarm calls) should be mounted within the range between 750mm and 1200mm (see figure below).

Meters should be mounted between 1200mm and 1400mm from the floor so that the readings can be viewed by a person standing or sitting. Pre-pay meters should be accessible but protected so children cannot tamper with them.

All switches and controls that require precise hand movements / dexterity e.g. for heating installations, ventilation etc., should be in a zone ranging from 750mm to 1000mm from the floor (see figure below) so that wheelchair users and those standing can operate them.

The maximum height of simple push button controls, including isolator switches and circuit-breakers, that require limited dexterity should be 1200mm (see figure below).

Outlets, switches and controls should be at least 350mm from corners.

