

Plugged into a power struggle

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Published: September 27, 2011 - 4:59PM

Question: I rent an apartment in inner-west Sydney with shared laundries on the landings. Each apartment has its own electricity socket in which to plug your own washing machine or dryer but mine doesn't work.

I have to run an extension cord from my apartment but I'm fed up with it. Not only is it annoying, it is a tripping hazard and with a toddler and a baby around it's dangerous.

The real estate agent says it's a strata problem. The owners corporation says it's the owner's problem because of renovations done 15 years ago. The secretary says previous tenants put their washing machine in the kitchen and I should do the same.

I'm due to sign a new lease - should I wait until I've done so before bringing this up again?

Beedee, via forum

Answer: "It's up to the owner to deal with the owners corporation on this issue," says a partner at Teys Lawyers, Chris Kerin.

To force the owner to resolve the issue, Kerin suggests checking the tenancy agreement for rights relating to the safe use of the premises. Otherwise, make dealing with it a condition of your continued tenancy. More on this on [the forum](#).

This story was found at: <http://www.canberratimes.com.au/domain/real-estate-news/plugged-into-a-power-struggle-20110923-1knre.html>

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