What types of plugs are used in Europe, and how do you choose the right plug for each country?

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Different plug and socket types are used across Europe, so it is important to check compatibility before installing a power strip, a socket built into furniture, or an electrical power system for kitchens, offices and workspaces.



C **Europlug C · 2 pins**

Two round pins. No earth connection; commonly used on small appliances.

Continental Europe.



E **French / Belgian · CEE 7/6**

Two round pins and a hole in the plug for the socket's earth pin.

France, Belgium, Poland, Czechia and Slovakia.



F **Schuko · CEE 7/4**

Two round pins and side earthing contacts on the plug and socket.

Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Spain, Portugal and others.



E/F **Hybrid · CEE 7/7**

Two round pins. No earth connection; commonly used on small appliances.

Countries with type E and F sockets.



G **British · 3 flat pins**

Three rectangular contacts: earth at the top and live/neutral below.

United Kingdom, Ireland, Malta and Cyprus.



J **Swiss · 3 triangular pins**

Three round pins in a triangle; the earth pin is slightly offset.

Switzerland and Liechtenstein.



K **Danish · offset earth pin**

Two round pins and a separate earth pin on the plug, offset from the centreline.

Denmark, Greenland and Faroe Islands.



L **Italian · 3 pins**

Three round pins in a row; the earth contact is in the centre.

Italy.

Before choosing a furniture socket, check:

- the country of installation.
- the type of electrical socket.
- the earth connection.
- the product's technical specifications.

Similar-looking plugs are not necessarily compatible or correctly earthed.