

How many teenagers does it take to change a light bulb?

British youth lacking simple DIY skills

LONDON, 17th APRIL 2013 - Simple DIY, such as changing a light bulb or reigniting the pilot light on the boiler, should be activities most 16-25 year olds are comfortable with, however research from tradesman recommendation service RatedPeople.com has revealed that young adults in Britain lack confidence with even the most simple of DIY tasks. In fact, an alarming **5 per cent** of 16-25 year olds said they would not be confident undertaking any jobs around the home, from changing the light bulb to putting up a shelf.

The research revealed a worrying decline in practical skills, as over a fifth (22%) of young people would not be confident in changing a light bulb; while more than two thirds (68%) are not able to wire a plug – despite this forming part of the national science curriculum. The research suggested that today's young people are overlooking home improvement skills, which would have been familiar to their parents, yet that most are au fait with modern technology. Some 79 per cent of 16-25 year olds said they would have no problem setting up a games console.

The research also explored young people's car maintenance skills, finding that many young women lack the knowledge to look after their car. Just 17 per cent of women said that they are able to change its oil, compared to 31 per cent of men. Furthermore, should a female driver experience a flat car battery, 91 per cent commented that they wouldn't feel confident jump starting the car, in comparison to 72 per cent of men. Finally just 10 per cent of women felt confident changing a car tyre, while only 2 per cent of women can replace a fan belt in comparison to 11 per cent of young men.

The research, conducted by YouGov, for the tradesmen recommendation service looked at the views of 1,000 16-25 year olds to highlight the company's new service: RatedApprenticeships.com. The scheme aims to connect young people looking to learn a trade with skilled tradesmen, providing direct 'on the job' training and experience.

Chris Havemann, CEO of RatedPeople.com, commented:

"Our research found that 16-25 year olds in the UK lack a basic knowledge of simple, but essential skills setting a disturbingly low standard for the next generation of skilled tradesmen who will form the backbone of the UK economy. These key skills must form a greater part of the UK education system to ensure that future generations have confidence in their abilities.

"RatedPeople.com wants to encourage more young people to enter a trade, and experience a more practical hands-on based education, which is why we have set up RatedApprenticeships.com. We hope that with more support for young people looking for an apprenticeship, we can encourage more of the next generation to consider a trade profession."

The most common DIY skills that young people lack:

1. Replacing a fan belt (7% are able to do this themselves)
2. Fixing a toilet (13%)
3. Reigniting a central heating boiler (13%)
4. Fixing a dripping tap (17%)
5. Jump starting a car (19%)
6. Hanging a door (20%)
7. Changing a car tyre (22%)
8. Changing oil in a car (24%)
9. Wiring a plug (32%)
10. Hanging a shelf (44%)

NOTES TO EDITOR

Methodology

All figures, unless otherwise stated, are from YouGov Plc. Total sample size was 1001. Fieldwork was undertaken between 19th-22nd February 2013. The survey was carried out online. The figures have been weighted and are representative of all UK adults aged 16-25.

About RatedPeople.com

RatedPeople.com is the UK's largest trade recommendation service that connects homeowners with over 30,000 quality, local tradesmen nationwide.

Homeowners who are in need of a tradesman can post jobs for free on RatedPeople.com and receive quotes from up to three interested tradesmen.

Only homeowners who have found their tradesman through RatedPeople.com can leave ratings, so they are always based on genuine experiences from previous customers. These ratings, based on quality, value and reliability, allow other homeowners to confidently hire a tradesman they can trust.

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