



Home Safety

Electricity is a safe and reliable energy source when used properly. Like any other source of energy, it can be hazardous if used without caution and care.

Keep your home's electrical system in good repair.

- If you continually replace fuses, reset circuit breakers, hear unusual buzzing sounds, see sparks or flickering lights, you may have a problem with the electrical wiring in your home. Contact a licensed electrical contractor to perform an inspection and make any necessary repairs.
- Always use the correct ampere rated fuses or circuit breakers. Incorrect amperage can cause power outages or fires in your home. If you are unsure of which amperage fuse or breaker to use, contact a licensed electrician.
- Take an active role in preventing an electrical fire in your home by identifying and correcting any potential arc faults. Arc faults occur when electricity is unintentionally released from home wiring, cords, or appliances because of damage or improper installation. This release of electricity can cause surrounding material to catch fire.



Practice safe electricity usage throughout your home.

- Never overload outlets. Overloaded outlets do cause fires - an estimated 5,300 annually in American households. Source: CPSC @ <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/524.html>. Almost 2,000 of those occur during the holidays. Source: ESFi @ <http://www.esfi.org>.
- If an electric appliance smells hot or buzzes, don't touch it or try to unplug it. Turn off the electricity at the circuit breaker and unplug it.
- Avoid the risk of fire by using the manufacturer's suggested wattage for light bulbs in lamps, lighting fixtures and all other appliances.
- Use extreme caution with halogen lamps. Place them away from curtains or other flammable materials.
- Keep space heaters away from flammable materials like curtains, rugs or newspapers. Only use UL-listed space heaters, and always operate space heaters to the manufacturer's specifications.
- In areas of your home where shock is a greater potential—such as the kitchen and bathrooms, laundry rooms, porches and patios—consider installing Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) in your main electrical panel, or have GFCIs installed in those specific rooms. These safety devices reduce the risk of electrocution.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions when operating heating pads and electric blankets.
- Ensure outlet safety with children by using outlet covers or plastic outlet caps.