

Outdoor Power

- Use only weatherproof fixtures and outlets for outdoor installations.
- Never run indoor extension cords across lawns for seasonal lighting displays or any extension cord across driveways or traffic areas.
- Never use electrical appliances outdoors in wet weather or when the ground or grass is wet, unless the appliance is specifically designed and labeled by a testing laboratory for such usage.
- Appliances used outdoors should be plugged into receptacles protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters.



Lighting

- Place lamps on level, uncluttered surfaces and be sure that lampshades are secure enough to protect the bulb from breaking if the lamp is knocked over.
- Lightbulbs should not exceed the recommended wattage for their lamp or fixtures.



Power Lines

- Never touch a power line. Doing so can result in a fatal shock or a severe injury.
- Keep ladders, especially metal ones, away from power lines.

Warning Signs

You can spot many electrical problems before they cause a fire or shock. Be alert to the following danger signs:

- Recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers.
- Feeling a tingle when you touch an electrical appliance.
- Discoloration of outlet covers.
- A burning smell or other unusual odor coming from an appliance or wiring.
- Flickering lights. If you cannot locate a problem inside your home, call your power company or an electrician immediately to inspect electrical connections to your home and at your electric meter. (Outdoor meter connections are extremely vulnerable to weather damage.)

When you spot a warning sign, don't wait for an accident. Take action at once. Unplug a malfunctioning appliance if you can do so safely. If necessary, cut off power to the problem circuit by disconnecting the fuse or tripping the circuit breaker by hand. Call a professional electrician to correct the problem.

Electrical Fire Safety



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Shocking Facts

Each year in the United States, hundreds of people die and thousands more are injured in accidents involving electrical fires or shocks. Most of these accidents can be prevented by following simple safety rules.

Fuses and Circuit Breakers

- If a fuse blows, don't just replace it. Find out what caused the circuit to overload and correct the problem.
- Never replace a fuse with one that exceeds the amperage rating for a given circuit.
- Avoid using several high-amperage appliances on the same circuit.
- Never replace a fuse with a penny or any other material that conducts electricity.
- Determine the cause of an overload before resetting a circuit breaker.

Electrical Outlets

- Have a professional electrician replace old or damaged outlets with modern, three-wired, polarized receptacles. Proper grounding is essential to prevent fire and shock hazards.
- Plugs should match outlets. Three-pronged plugs require three-wired outlets or a properly grounded adapter. Polarized plugs, with one prong wider than the other, require polarized outlets.

- Never cut off or bend the grounding pin of a three-pronged plug. This ground connection protects you from severe shock caused by a faulty cord or malfunctioning appliance.
- Never alter the wide prong of a polarized plug to make it fit into an old outlet. Have the outlet replaced and properly grounded.
- Protect children from electrical shock by installing plastic safety inserts in unused outlets.

Appliances

- All household appliances should bear the label of an independent testing laboratory, indicating that they meet basic safety standards.

- Keep heat-producing appliances such as space heaters, stoves, and irons at least 3 feet (1 meter) away from furniture, curtains, bedding, or anything that will burn.
- Allow plenty of air space around televisions, computers, and stereos to prevent overheating.
- Keep electrical cords away from heat-producing appliances such as toasters and coffee makers.
- Be sure that detachable appliance cords, such as those found on coffee makers, deep-fat fryers, and popcorn poppers, are rated for the electrical-load requirements of the appliance.
- Never put foil or other metals in a microwave oven.

Electrical Cords

- Keep electrical cords out of traffic paths and away from areas where children play.
- Keep cords well-maintained. Replace any cord that is cracked, frayed, or otherwise damaged.
- Never pinch an electrical cord against walls or furniture.
- Do not run extension cords under carpets or across doorways.

