

Electrical Safety

Every year electrical shocks and fires cause hundreds of deaths. We encourage you to take a few minutes to read these safety tips. You never know what you may have forgotten or overlooked.

Fuses & Circuit breakers

- If a fuse blows out, find out why it blew before you replace it
- When replacing a fuse, make sure that it is sized correctly and matches the circuit
- Hair dryers, curling irons and other electrical appliances draw a lot of electrical current, don't plug more than one of them into the same outlet

GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupters)

GFCI's are inexpensive and can be found at your local hardware store. Most if not all newer homes, mobile homes and manufactured homes have these installed. However, some older homes may not have them. Therefore, we strongly encourage an electrician to install them. This is easy to do: They should be placed at the beginning of the circuit in the kitchen where there are outlets on counters and on islands, in bathrooms outdoor plugs, garages and basements, or anyplace there may be water close by.

Electrical Outlets

- Have a qualified electrician replace old electrical outlets with new approved ones
- Never alter a plug to fit an outlet
- If you have small children, install plastic safety covers in unused outlets

Appliances

- Only buy appliances that have labels stating they've been tested by an independent lab
- Keep all heat producing appliances -- heaters, irons, etc. -- at least 3 feet away from furniture, curtains, clothing, etc.
- Unplug small appliances when they are not being used
- Make sure there is adequate air space around all electronic items such as computers, stereos, etc.

Extension Cords

- Only use extension cords that have a marked rating label
- Replace cracked or frayed extension cords
- Keep cords away from traffic areas and where children can get to them
- Don't run extension cords under carpets or across doorways
- Extension cords should never be used as permanent wiring

Lamps

- Keep lamps away from things that can burn
- Place lamps on level surfaces
- Use only bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage

Outdoor Power

- All outdoor electrical fixtures should be weatherproof
- Use GFCI outlets
- Holiday lights should be plugged into permanently installed GFCI outlets
- Use only extension cords rated for outdoor use

Power Lines

- Never touch a power line
- Keep ladders and other metal objects away from power lines
- Call 911 to report downed power lines