

OUTLETS

- ◆ Unplug appliances not in use
- ◆ Change 2-prong outlets to 3-prong grounded outlets or install GFCI's.
- ◆ Cover or cap unused outlets.
- ◆ Replace missing or broken wall plates.
- ◆ Keep all electrical devices clean and dust free.

CORDS & PLUGS

- ◆ Replace loose, frayed, or broken cords or plugs. Loose-fitting plugs overheat and cause a fire.
- ◆ Never pull on the cord to unplug.
- ◆ Protect all electrical connections (inside & out) from water.
- ◆ Never run electrical or extension cords under rugs, carpets, furniture, or across doorways.
- ◆ Never staple or nail through cords. It could cause a shock or fire.
- ◆ Make sure lights are used according to their instructions for indoor or outdoor use.
- ◆ Never tuck in or lay anything on electric blankets. Unplug before falling asleep or when not in use.
- ◆ Stop using an appliance that repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker, or gives off a shock. Have it repaired or replaced. Never repair electrical products yourself.
- ◆ Complete warranty and product registration forms for recall notification.

EXTENSION CORDS

- ◆ Unplug and replace cords hot to the touch.
- ◆ One extension cord should be used per item.
- ◆ Use cords that have a rating the same or higher than the wattage of the product that will be used.
- ◆ Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Never use in replacement of permanent wiring.
- ◆ Never use extension cords or portable heaters in bathrooms.
- ◆ Have safety closures on extension cords to prevent shocks and burns.
- ◆ Make sure cords used outdoors are intended for outdoor use.
- ◆ Keep children and pets away from plugs, outlets, and cords.



KNOW WHAT TO DO

Everyone in the family should know where the electrical box is and how to turn off power in an emergency.

Water & Electricity are a deadly combination. If an electrical appliance is dropped in water while it is plugged in or running. **DO NOT touch it or the water!**



1. Turn off power to the outlet from the electrical box.
2. Unplug the appliance. Drain the water. Remove the appliance.
3. Do not use the appliance until it has dried out and been checked by a repair person.

Electrical Fires can be extinguished by yourself only if everyone in the house is out, the fire is small, and you have an exit behind you. If you aren't sure, get out!

1. Unplug the item or interrupt power at the main switch.
2. Call the 9-1-1.
3. Use a multi-purpose fire extinguisher.

Power Lines, poles,

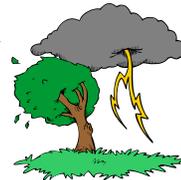
NEVER USE WATER ON AN ELECTRICAL FIRE.



transformers, and substations should be avoided. Electricity can travel and injure without direct contact.

1. Stay away. Call your local utility company for help.
2. The plastic tubing on power lines will not protect you.
3. If a power line is touching your car, stay inside until help arrives, and do not touch anything that is wet or made of metal. Metal conducts electricity.

Lightning Storms kill 73 people a year. Seek shelter. Avoid water, high ground, open spaces, metal objects, and trees until at least 30 minutes after the last flash of lightning.



1. Never use anything electrical during a storm or in wet conditions.
2. Use battery-operated radios and flashlights.
3. Avoid baths and showers.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY



Repair, Replace, and Respect It!

MIAMI VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT
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Fire Headquarters/non-emergency
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DON'T BE SHOCKED

Electricity is our most mysterious form of energy. You can't see it, hear it, or smell it, but you can sure feel it!

Electricity seeks the easiest path to the ground, trying to find a conductor, such as metal, wet wood, or water. Humans are conductors, since 70% of the body is water. So if a person touches an energized bare wire or faulty equipment while grounded, electricity will instantly pass through the body to the ground, causing a harmful, potentially fatal shock.

Treat electricity with the respect it deserves. Never assume anything!
Electricity can kill in 1 second.

It is estimated that 70% of electrocutions could be prevented.

Electrical burns to the mouth accounted for 1/2 of the injuries to young children.

32% of all deaths caused by residential electrical systems are as a result of faulty cords and plugs.

Each year, there are 40,000 residential fires due to electrical wiring, claiming more than 350 lives, causing thousands of injuries from shocks and burns, creating \$2 billion in personal property damage. Electric receptacles are responsible for 40 deaths and 5,300 fires.

LIGHTING AND ELECTRICAL SAFETY

It is best to hire a professional to repair, replace, or install anything electrical. However, if you attempt a small job yourself, be knowledgeable and do it safely.

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- ✎ Make sure all electrical boxes, wiring, and outlets are up to code.
 - ✎ Turn off the power by flipping the breaker or removing the fuse for the circuit.
 - ✎ Use a wooden ladder on a sturdy surface. Never use a metal ladder.
 - ✎ Follow all manufacturer's recommendations for installation and maintenance.
 - ✎ Check that all lights have the UL, ETL, or CSA approved label.
 - ✎ Make sure all bulbs are screwed in tightly. Loose bulbs may overheat.
 - ✎ Inspect light fixtures (old & new) for:
 1. Broken or cracked sockets.
 2. Frayed or bare wires.
 3. Loose connections.
 4. Loose or missing bulbs.
 - ✎ Throw out or repair damaged lights.
 - ✎ Turn off lights before replacing bulbs.
 - ✎ Use proper wattage or voltage.
 - ✎ Keep outdoor spotlights well-ventilated and away from things that could burn.
 - ✎ Keep halogen floor lamps which could overheat away from anything that can burn.
 - ✎ Check with your local utility before digging outside or avoid buried cables.

GROUND FAULT CIRCUIT INTERRUPTERS (GFCI's):

GFCI's are an important safety feature. A GFCI greatly reduces fatalities by monitoring electricity flow and shutting off if the flow changes. While they do not prevent shocks, they help protect you from serious electrocution and severe injuries.

- ✓ Some appliances equipped with built-in shock protectors may not require an additional GFCI.
- ✓ Use GFCI's on all electrical outlets near water, especially in the bathroom, laundry room, kitchen, garage, and outdoors or where power tools are used.
- ✓ GFCI's are still needed on 3-prong outlets to provide additional shock protection.
- ✓ Portable GFCI's are available for temporary use.
- ✓ Use an additional surge protector for electronic devices such as computers and entertainment center appliances.

GFCI's can become faulty from use, improper wiring, being improperly used, or from a strong power surge during an electrical storm. In any of these cases, contact an electrician to have it corrected.

3,900 injuries yearly are associated with outlets, about 1/3 occur when children insert metal objects resulting in shock or burn injuries.

Test all GFCI's once a month and after every electrical storm.

1. Plug a nightlight or lamp into the outlet. The light should be on.
2. Press the "Test" button on the GFCI. (*The "Reset" button should pop out and the light should go out. If the "Reset" button pops out but the light does not go out, it has been improperly wired. Have an electrician repair it. If the "Reset" button does not pop out, the GFCI is defective and should be replaced.*)
3. If the GFCI is functioning properly, and the lamp goes out, press the "Reset" button to restore power to the outlet.