

Home Electrical Safety Tips

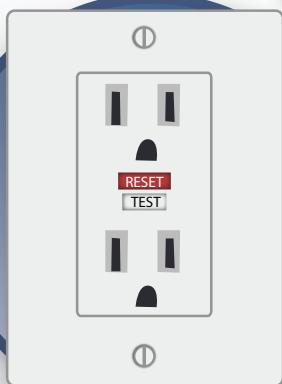


Electrical system components can wear out over time, just like your roof or furnace, but good electrical safety practices can help keep your home safe.

All electrical work should be performed by a licensed electrician.



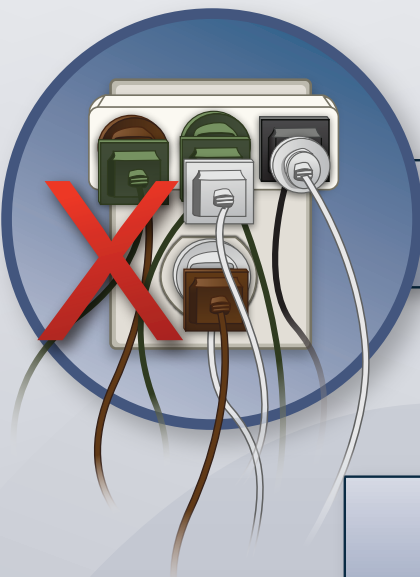
Use GFCI-protected outlets in the kitchen and bathroom.



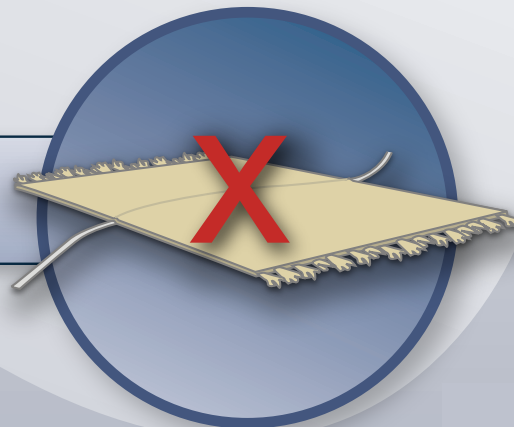
Routinely check cords, outlets, switches, and appliances for signs of damage.



Do not overload outlets with too many devices or appliances.



Never run electrical cords under rugs or carpets.



Electricity has become such a standard part of our daily lives that it is often taken for granted, but electrical failures are a leading cause of home fires every year. Homes with aging electrical systems are at increased risk for electrical fires. Follow these easy safety tips to identify and prevent electrical safety hazards.

- All electrical work in your home should be performed by a licensed electrician in accordance with local and national codes.
- Have your home electrical system inspected by a qualified professional if:
 - Your home is 40 years old or older;
 - You purchase a previously-owned home;
 - Your home has undergone a major renovation; or
 - You have added major new appliances in the last 10 years.
- Consider having your circuit breakers replaced with arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), which provide enhanced electrical fire protection by detecting dangerous arcing conditions.
- Make sure all electrical panel circuits are properly labeled. Always replace fuses or circuit breakers with the correct size and amperage.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)-protected outlets in areas where electricity is near a water source, like in the kitchen and bathroom.
- Every month, use the TEST buttons to check that GFCIs, AFCIs and smoke alarms are working properly.
- Routinely check cords, outlets, switches, and appliances for signs of damage. Do not use damaged electrical devices.
- Do not overload outlets with too many devices or appliances.
- Do not use extension cords on a permanent basis, and never use them with major appliances.
- Never run electrical cords under rugs or carpets.
- Do not pinch cords under furniture or in windows or doors.

Home Electrical Safety Tips *(Continued)*

- Always use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture.
- Look and listen for warning signs of an electrical problem. Contact a licensed electrician if you observe:
 - Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers;
 - A tingling feeling or slight shock when you touch an appliance;
 - Outlets and switches that are warm or make crackling, sizzling or buzzing noises; or
 - Flickering or dimming lights.