

Electrical Safety in Your Home

Electrical fires in our homes claim the lives of 485 Americans each year and injure 2,305 more. Some of these fires are caused by electrical system failures and appliance defects, but many more are caused by the misuse and poor maintenance of electrical appliances, incorrectly installed wiring, and overloaded circuits and extension cords.

Some safety tips to remember:

- 1. Never use anything but the proper fuse to protect a circuit.**
- 2. Never place extension cords under rugs.**
- 3. Outlets near water sources should be GFCI-protected.**
- 4. Never overload extension cords or wall sockets.**
- 5. Replace all worn, old and damaged appliance cords immediately.**
- 6. Keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters.**
- 7. Use safety closures to child-proof electrical outlets.**
- 8. Don't allow children to play with or around electrical appliances, such as space heaters, irons and hair dryers.**
- 9. Keep clothing, curtains and combustible items at least 3 feet away from heaters.**
- 10. If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet.**
- 11. Keep ladders, kites, equipment and everything else away from overhead power lines.**
- 12. Immediately shut off lights that flicker or switches that are hot to the touch, and call a professional to replace them.**
- 13. Don't climb trees near power lines, and have their limbs professionally trimmed.**
- 14. Replace any tool if it causes even small electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out or gives off smoke or sparks.**



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