

Avoid Electrical Hazards

*by learning some
Do's & Don'ts.*



Are you aware of these shocking facts...

- Electrocutions are the fifth leading cause of accidental death in the U.S.
- One person is electrocuted in the home every 24 hours. (CPSC)
- One person is electrocuted in the workplace every 36 hours. (OSHA)
- More than 700 people in the United States lose their lives every year because of accidents associated with electricity and electrical products.

Learn some do's & don't, and avoid becoming an electrical-hazard statistic

DON'T ignore flickering lights, blown fuses, sparks, or switches and outlets that don't work.

DO have a qualified electrician check the wiring.

If you can't use your hair dryer while someone is making toast, it's time to get the wiring inspected. Other problem signs include dimming lights, an electrical smell, warm cords and soot around outlets.

DON'T overload electrical outlets or use multiple extension cords.

DO read appliance labels and calculate how to balance the load.

Most home outlets can support up to 1500 watts. Some kitchen circuits can support 2000 watts. To find out what your appliances require, look for a wattage listing on the label on the back or bottom of the appliance.

DON'T use older extension cords without inspecting them first.

DO check for frays and cracks and note the cord's load limit.

Damaged and overloaded cords may cause a shock or fire. Cords should have a label, sticker or printing on the outer covering that tells how much power they can support.

DON'T assume that your house is wired safely.

DO determine when your home was last inspected.

Check the electrical panel for a label or tag with a date and signature or initials. If there isn't one, use the home's age as a guide. If it's been 10 years or more since the last inspection, a new inspection is advised.

DON'T use electrical appliances or talk on the phone during an electrical storm.

DO wait until the storm passes.

If lightning were to strike a tree or wire outside your house, (the jolt) could come in on the wire and would not only ruin the appliance, but would strike you too.

DON'T tempt young children with exposed electrical outlets.

DO use safety covers or specially designed safety outlets.

Devices range from inexpensive snap-on outlet covers to special tamper-resistant switch plates. Ensure that the snap-on variety fits snugly, covers all three holes, and that there aren't gaps between the protector and outlet.

Why do so many people get injured or killed by electrical hazards?

Experts believe it's because electricity has become so ingrained in our lifestyle, we take it for granted. It's in our homes, schools, and workplaces. We trust electricity and because we do, safety is rarely a concern. Until everyone starts respecting electricity and understanding its proper use and associated dangers, we will continue to have electrical hazard related injuries and deaths.

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