

Outdoor power

- Make sure outdoor electrical fixtures are weatherproof.
- Use GFCI-protected electrical outlets with weatherproof covers.



- Power holiday lighting displays from permanent circuits installed by an electrician — never from extension cords.
- Don't use electrical appliances outdoors when the ground or grass is wet unless the tool has been rated for that kind of use.
- Never run extension cords across lawns, walks, or driveways, and use only extension cords rated for outdoor use.

Power lines

- Never touch a power line. Stay at a distance — you could be badly electrocuted.
- Keep ladders (especially metal ones) far away from power lines, including the electrical service into your home.
- Report downed power lines and mark the area to warn people to stay away.

Warning signs

Be aware of unusual conditions. Spot electrical problems before they start a fire or cause a shock. Watch for . . .

- Recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers.

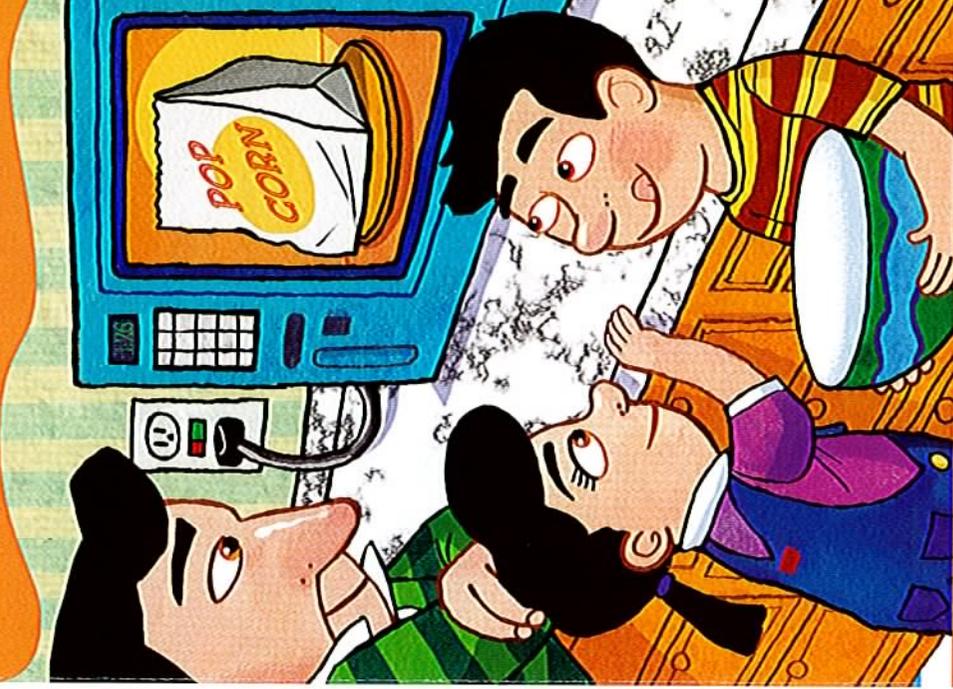


- Feeling a tingle when you touch an electrical appliance.
- Discolored wall outlets.
- A burning smell or rubbery odor coming from an appliance.
- Flickering lights. (If you don't pinpoint a problem inside your home, have the power company inspect the service to your home and your electric meter.)

Don't wait for problems. If it's safe, unplug malfunctioning appliances. If necessary, cut off power by unscrewing a fuse or turning off the circuit breaker. Then call a professional electrician.

Electrical Fire Safety

Simple rules for keeping your home powerfully safe

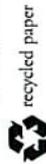


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Fuses and circuit breakers

- If a fuse or circuit breaker blows, find out why it blew and correct the problem.
- Make sure replacement fuses have the proper amperage rating for the circuit they protect.



- Don't overload your wiring by plugging more than one heat-producing appliance into the same outlet or circuit.

GFICIs

Ground fault circuit interrupters shut off faulty circuits faster than conventional fuses or circuit breakers can. They can be hard-wired into your electrical system, built into or plugged into electrical outlets, or built into extension cords. Test GFICIs monthly.

AFCIs

Arc-fault circuit interrupters detect abnormal arcing in a circuit before conventional circuit breakers can. Many local electrical codes now require them.

Electrical outlets

- Replace old outlets with modern ones that accept three-pronged polarized plugs (only if your circuit has a ground wire).
- Never alter a plug to fit an outdated outlet.
- Install plastic safety covers in unused outlets to protect children.

• Have a professional electrician check all outlets for proper grounding.

Appliances

- Buy only appliances that bear the label of an independent testing lab.
- Keep irons, space heaters, and all heat-producing appliances at least three feet away from anything that can burn.

• Unplug toasters, coffeemakers, and all small appliances when they're not in use.

• Allow adequate ventilation around computers, stereo systems, and all electronic components to prevent overheating.

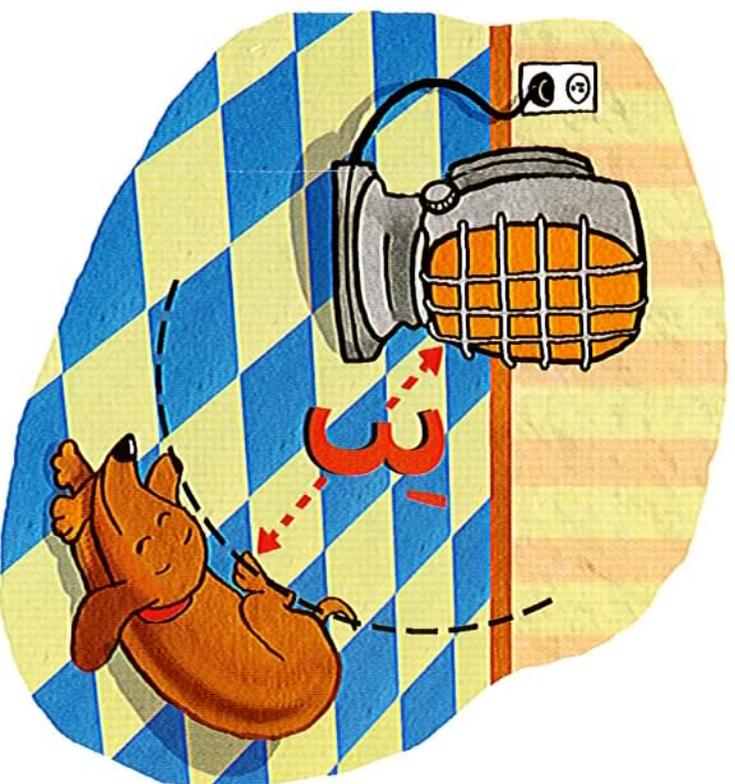
• Be sure detachable appliance cords — for coffeemakers, fryers, popcorn makers, etc. — are rated for the appliances' load requirements (amperage). Always unplug appliance cords from outlets when not in use.

Cords

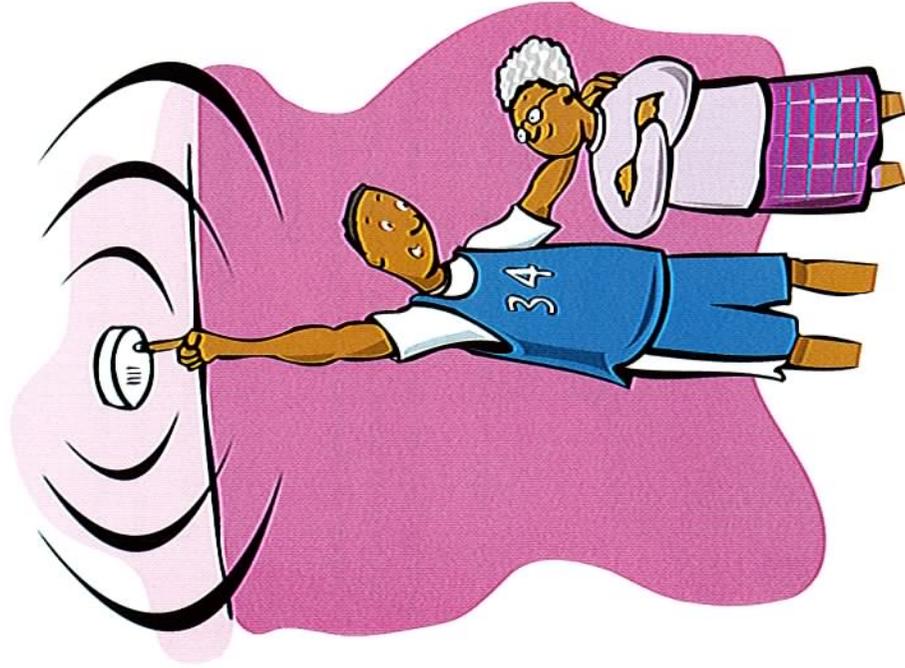
- Replace cracked and frayed electrical cords.
- Keep cords out of traffic areas and away from where children play.
- Don't pinch cords against walls or furniture or run them under carpets or across doorways.

Lamps

- Place lamps on level surfaces and away from combustibles.
- Use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.
- Use shades that will protect the bulb from breaking if the lamp is knocked over.



- Kneel down, then reach up as high as you can and touch around the door — at the knob and around the frame — with the back of your hand.
- If this area feels cool, brace your shoulder against the door and open it with caution. If it's warm, try another escape route.



Home smoke alarms

Smoke alarms can cut your chances of dying in a fire nearly in half. Install one on every level of your home

and in or near all sleeping areas. Test all alarms once a month; replace batteries once a year or when the unit “chirps” to warn you of low battery power. Keep smoke alarms clean and replace any alarm that is 10 years old.

Home fire sprinklers

Consider installing an automatic fire sprinkler system in your home. Sprinklers can contain and even extinguish a home fire in less time than it takes the fire department to arrive.

Fire Drills: The Great Escape At Home and on the Job



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At work

Each year an average of 6,000 fires in office buildings are reported.

Employees and employers must be prepared. Study posted fire escape floor plans and always participate in fire drills.



- Count the doors or stations between where you work and the nearest exit. You may have to escape in the dark.
- Learn the location of two exits from all work areas.
- Know where the nearest fire alarm is and learn how to use it.
- Post the fire department's emergency phone number near your phone.
- Always participate in workplace fire drills.
- If you have a disability and need help escaping, ask your supervisor to include your needs in the evacuation plan.

What to do in a workplace fire

- Sound the alarm and call the fire department, even for a very small fire.
- Leave quickly, closing doors as you go to contain the fire and smoke.
- Do what fire and security personnel tell you. Once outside, move away from the building, out of firefighters' way.
- Do not attempt to use a portable fire extinguisher unless you have been trained and authorized to do so.



At home

Every home should have a fire escape plan.

- Draw a floor plan of your home, marking two ways out (including windows) of every room — and decide on the best escape routes.
- Pick an outside meeting place in front of your home and tell everyone to meet there when they've escaped.

so you can count heads and tell the fire department if anyone's trapped inside.

- Call the fire department from a neighbor's phone, portable phone, or call-box after you've escaped.

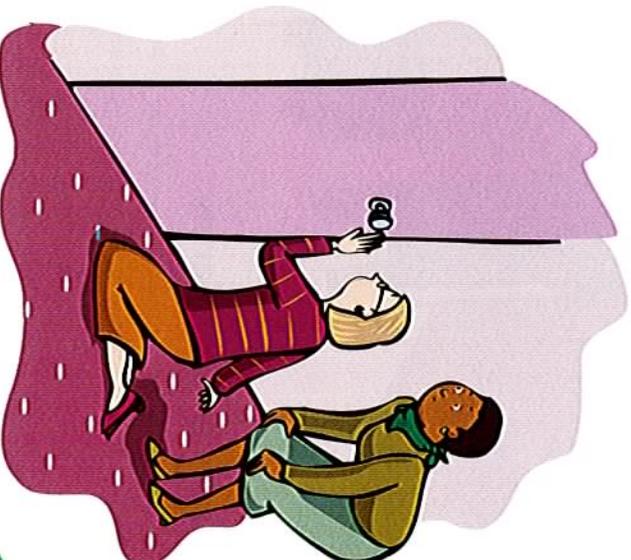
Practice

- Hold a home fire drill at least twice a year.
- Appoint someone to be monitor and have everyone physically participate.
- Make your exit drill realistic. Pretend that some exits are blocked and practice using alternative escape routes.

Remember: A fire drill is not a race. Get out quickly, but carefully.

Escape tips

- If you see smoke while you're escaping, try another way out. If you can't avoid the smoke, crawl on your hands and knees with your head 1 to 2 feet (30 to 60 centimeters) above the floor.
- Test doors before you open them — if there's fire on the other side, they'll be warm.





Small Kitchen Fires

Grease Fires

Always keep an oven mitt and a fire extinguisher nearby. If a small grease fire starts in a pan, smother the flames by carefully sliding the lid over the pan (make sure you are using the oven mitt). Turn off the burner. To keep the fire from spreading, do not remove the lid until it is completely cool. Never pour water on a grease fire. If the fire does not go out, get out of the home and call the fire department.

Stove Fires

Turn off the heat and keep the burner closed to prevent flames from burning you or your clothing.

If the fire does not go out, get out of the home and call the fire department.

Fire Extinguishers

Know what type of fire your fire extinguisher will put out. Learn how to use your fire extinguisher before a fire occurs.

Neat and Clean

Keep pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels, curtains, and anything else that can burn away from your stovetop. Clean up food and grease from burners and the stovetop.

Burn Prevention

If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible. Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the stove. When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting sleeves. Treat a burn right away by putting it in cool water for 3 to 5 minutes. Then cover the burn with a clean, dry cloth. When in doubt, seek medical attention.

Countertop Safety

Use only one heat-producing appliance on the same electrical circuit at a time. Have ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) installed on kitchen-counter outlets. Replace cracked or frayed appliance cords. If an appliance feels too hot, smokes, or gives off an unusual odor, unplug it immediately. Then have it serviced or replaced.



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FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
OCTOBER 8-14, 2006

Prevent Cooking Fires

Watch What You Heat



National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and fire departments across North America observe Fire Prevention Week each October to mark the anniversary of the 1871 Great Chicago Fire and to raise public awareness about fire safety.

theme of Fire Prevention Week 2006 is kitchen fire safety...

Prevent Cooking Fires: Watch What You Heat!

Cooking equipment is involved in more than 100,000 reported home fires each year. Most of those fires occur because people are not paying attention to their cooking.

Kitchens are the number one place for home fires to start

Kitchen safety tips

Pay attention when you cook!

Most cooking fires occur because of unattended cooking.

- Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, broiling, or boiling food.
- If you must leave the room even for a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- When you are simmering, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.

When you are finished cooking, turn off all burners and ovens.

Microwaves

Read the manufacturer's instructions before you use a microwave oven.

Plug the oven directly into an outlet. Never use an extension cord for a microwave – it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.

Use only microwave-safe containers to heat food.

Allow food to cool for a minute or more before you remove it from the oven and use an oven mitt.

Open food slowly. Hot steam escaping from the container can cause painful burns. Let food and liquid cool before you eat or drink it.

Remember that containers may feel warm, the contents may be very hot.

Never use aluminum foil or metal objects in a microwave oven. They can cause a fire or burn hazard and damage the oven.

If you have a fire in your microwave, turn it off immediately and keep the door closed. Never open the door until the fire is completely out. If in doubt, get out of the home and call the fire department.