

# Is Your Home Safe?

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What many people don't realize is that electrical fires claim the lives of over 300 people every year in America and injure countless others. It is important to be educated and to seek help from a licensed and qualified electrician. Don't take chances by guessing or trying to do electrical work yourself. In addition to fire, hundreds of people die by electrical shock each year in their homes. It is important to stay safe and to keep your electrical system working properly and correctly.



[www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/electrical.shtm](http://www.usfa.fema.gov/citizens/home_fire_prev/electrical.shtm)

[www.nfpa.org/assets/files/pdf/electric/esfi\\_booklet\\_2008.pdf](http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/pdf/electric/esfi_booklet_2008.pdf)

Please take a few moments to read the following to educate you about electrical home safety.

## **Appliances and Equipment**

Appliances and equipment cords should be free of nicks or cuts, and the prongs must go into the outlets completely. If you find any that you question, have a licensed electrician inspect and replace if needed. To protect your sensitive electrical and electronic equipment (computers, electronics in appliances, TV, etc) from lightning, have a whole-house surge protection install on power, telephone and cable.



**WARNING:** *If an appliance gives anyone a shock, unplug it immediately and have it fixed by a licensed electrician.*

## **Circuit Breakers and Fuses**

A blown fuse or tripped circuit breakers is a sign of a serious problem. Resetting the circuit breaker or replacing a fuse more than once without having it checked by a licensed electrician could be a dangerous practice.

## **Cover Plates**

Damage or cracked cover plates need to be replaced immediately to prevent access to dangerous energized electrical parts.

## **Electric Shock**

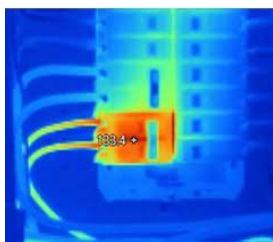
If you feel a tingle or shock when touching metal parts in your home, IMMEDIATELY contact a licensed electrician to fix the hazard.

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## (continued)

### Extension Cords

You should not be using extension cords to provide power because a convenient receptacle is not available, especially outdoors. Extension cords are UL listed for temporary application; they are not to be used as permanent household wiring. The safest thing to do is simply have a licensed electrician install a receptacle where it's needed!



### Hot Terminals

Have a licensed electrician measure the operating temperatures of large terminals in your home with a specialized thermometer; and repair those that show excessive operating temperatures.

### Receptacles

1. You need GFCI protected receptacles located in the kitchen, bathrooms, garage, and outside. These special receptacles protect against electric shock. If you are unsure if your home has these safety receptacles, please have a licensed electrician do a quick home survey.
2. Have a licensed electrician test your receptacles to make sure that they are grounded properly by using a ground continuity tester.
3. If you have children or grand kids, you might want to childproof your receptacles with tamper resistant receptacles.
4. Burnt out receptacles must be replaced immediately.
5. Two prong receptacles must be replaced with three prong (grounding) receptacles and be GFCI protected. Be sure that you do not use and two prong – three prong adapters!
6. Careful that you don't have too many cords plugged into one outlet.



**CAUTION:** *Test GFCIs receptacle monthly and after every major lightning storm by pressing the test, then the reset button.*