

## 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.

### GFCIs

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 GFCIs 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- Never alter a plug to fit an outdated outlet.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.

