

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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