

## ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

In 2006, an estimated 52,500 home structure fires reported to U.S. fire departments involved some type of electrical failure or malfunction as a factor contributing to ignition. These fires resulted in 340 civilian deaths, 1,400 civilian injuries, and \$1,447 million in direct property damage.

### Safety tips

- Replace or repair loose or frayed cords on all electrical devices.
- Avoid running extension cords across doorways or under carpets.
- In homes with small children, unused wall sockets and extension-cord receptacles should have plastic safety covers.
- Consider having additional circuits or outlets added by a qualified electrician so you do not have to use extension cords.
- Follow the manufacturer's instructions for plugging an appliance into a receptacle outlet.
- Avoid overloading outlets. Plug only one high-wattage appliance into each receptacle outlet at a time.
- If outlets or switches feel warm, shut off the circuit and have them checked by an electrician.
- When possible, avoid the use of "cube taps" and other devices that allow the connection of multiple appliances into a single receptacle.
- Place lamps on level surfaces, away from things that can burn and use bulbs that match the lamp's recommended wattage.

## WARNING SIGNS OF ELECTRICAL DANGERS

There are several ways you can assess your risk and make simple changes to reduce the hazards that may be present in an electrical system. By ensuring that your home undergoes a thorough electrical inspection completed by a qualified electrician before buying, selling, or remodeling a home, you can help make certain your home's electrical system operates at the highest level of safety possible.



### **Warning sign: Frequent or re-occurring issues with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers**

If a fuse opens or circuit breaker is tripped, be sure to investigate the cause before replacing the fuse or resetting the breaker. If necessary, call a qualified electrician to investigate the cause.



**Warning sign: A tingling sensation when you touch an electrical appliance or other metal objects**

Getting a shock when you touch appliances in your house can indicate a more serious problem. Be sure to unplug the appliance and discontinue use.



**Warning sign: Discolored or warm wall outlets, or Sparks from an outlet**

This can indicate arcing, smoldering, burning happening behind your outlets, damaged or improperly installed wiring in the outlet, or a problem with the receptacle itself. Avoid using the outlet or switch and contact a qualified electrician as soon as possible.



**Warning sign: A persistent burning smell coming from an appliance, room, or area**

This can indicate that the appliance is overheating or malfunctioning. Unplug the appliance or turn off the circuit breaker.



**Warning sign: Flickering or dimming lights**

This sign could indicate a short in the wiring, dangerous arcing, or an over-extension of your home's electrical systems. Contact a qualified electrician to discuss potential reasons for this problem and to have an inspection completed.

Find out what Dan Doofus does wrong!

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-wXyw0tvSA>

*Disclaimer: These photos are situational. They are intended to describe a situation, not issues with the manufacturer of any product*

NFPA Safety Information