

INDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY

CHECKLIST

Extension cords are intended for occasional use, not for replacing electrical outlets. If you frequently need to use an extension cord in the same area, have a licensed electrician install a new outlet to avoid constant use of an extension cord.

Every adult in the home should know how to turn off the main power switch and individual breakers.

Never replace a fuse with a penny, metal object or another fuse that exceeds the recommended amp rating.

AFCIs replace conventional circuit breakers and prevent arc flash.

WHOLE HOUSE

- Do you limit your use of extension cords?
- Do you read and follow manufacturers' instructions for the products you purchase and use?
- Are appliances, including heaters, lamps, radios, televisions and telephones stored and used a safe distance away from bathtubs, hot tubs, sinks and swimming pools?
- Have you checked your outlets to make sure you haven't overloaded your household's electrical circuits?
- Do you do your part to prevent extension cords and product cords from becoming damaged?
- Do all outlet and switches have faceplates?
- Are outlets and switches cool to the touch?
- Do electrical plugs fit snugly into all outlets?
- Are all electrical cords in good condition – not frayed, nicked or cracked?
- Do all cords and other electrical equipment bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory?
- Do you store outdoor electrical products indoors?

ELECTRICAL PANEL

- Do you and all the adults in your home make sure your hands and the floor are dry before touching anything in your fuse or circuit breaker box?
- Do you and the adults living in your home know to turn the main power switch off before changing a fuse (if your electrical panel is equipped with fuses, not breakers)?
- If your electrical system uses fuses, do you have replacement UL listed fuses of the correct current or amp rating on hand for emergencies?
- Do the fuses have the correct current or amp rating?
- Is your electrical panel equipped with an AFCI?

MORE INFO ON NEXT PAGE

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Electrical Safety Foundation International

www.electrical-safety.org

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To test a GFCI, push the test button. The reset button should pop out, cutting off the flow of electricity. To restore the power, push the reset button back in.

Never run electrical cords under rugs or over hot or wet surfaces. Never shut doors or windows on cords.

UL-listed extension cords bear a marking showing the cord's current carrying capacity, also known as the rating. To verify that an extension cord's rating meets or exceeds the electrical current drawn by the product, consult the product's instruction booklet and markings.

Uncoiling the extension cord may avoid possible overheating.

KITCHEN ♦ BATHROOM ♦ BASEMENT

- Are all circuits providing power near water sources (bathroom, basement, kitchen) equipped with GFCI outlets?
- Do you test your GFCIs once a month?
- Are all counter-top appliances unplugged when not in use?
- Are all appliance cords kept well away from such heat sources as stovetops?
- Are you using the correct gauge extension cord for a product?
- Have you ever received even a slight shock (even one from static electricity) from an appliance? If so, don't touch it until it has been checked by a licensed electrician.

LIVING ROOM ♦ BEDROOM

- Are portable electric heaters placed at least three feet from upholstery, curtains or other flammables?
- Is your electric blanket in good condition, free from cracks or breaks in wiring, plugs and connectors?
- Do you always grasp the plug (not the cord) when unplugging electrical items?
- Do you fully unwind power cords and extension cords before using?
- Are electrical cords and extension cords placed with good air circulation and out of the way of foot traffic?
- Are extension cords uncoiled when in use?
- Are all extension cords equipped with safety covers on the unused receptacles?
- Are all power tools equipped with a three-pronged (grounded) plug?



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