

In ALL Rooms



Check Electrical Cords (including those on lamps and extension cords) and Entertainment Equipment (TVs, DVD players, computers, etc.)

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Is any cord frayed, cracked, or otherwise damaged ? | YES: Replace all damaged cords or replace equipment. | <i>Damaged cords may have exposed live wires that can be shock and fire hazards.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is any cord placed where it might be stepped on? | YES: Move all cords so they are out of the path of foot traffic. | <i>Cords placed in the path of traffic are tripping hazards. Cords can be damaged when stepped on, creating a fire or shock hazard.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is any piece of furniture or rug resting on an electrical cord? | YES: Move cords or furniture so cords are not covered. | <i>Heavy weights or traffic can damage cords, crushing insulation or breaking wire strands, creating a fire or shock hazard.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is any cord tightly wrapped around any object? | YES: Unwrap cords. | <i>Wrapped cords trap heat that normally escapes loose cords, which can lead to melting or weakening of insulation.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are cords attached to anything (wall, baseboard, etc) with nails or wire staples ? | YES: Remove any nails and/or staples and replace damaged cords. | <i>Nails and staples can tear or crush the insulation or cut the wires inside, presenting a fire or shock hazard.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Are all extensions cords equipped with safety covers on the unused outlets? | NO: Use safety covers that fill the slots of every unused outlet. | <i>Children can be shocked or seriously burned when they play with uncovered outlets.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Check the electrical rating on appliances and extension cords. Is any extension cord carrying more than its proper load ? | YES: Replace cord with a higher capacity cord (16 AWG handles 1375 W, use 14 or 12 AWG for heavier loads). | <i>Too much current will cause the wires to get hot. If the cord, plug, or outlet feels warm, it may be overloaded, and can be a fire hazard.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is any extension cord being used on a permanent basis? | YES: Have new outlets installed where needed, or move appliance closer to an outlet. | <i>Extension cords are not as safe as permanent house wiring. Installed wiring can carry more current and is protected from accidental damage that could cause shock or fire.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Is all the entertainment equipment placed so that air can freely circulate around it? | NO: Move equipment so it has room to "breathe." Avoid enclosing equipment in a cabinet without proper openings and do not store papers around equipment. | <i>Blocking air flow to equipment can cause overheating and a possible fire hazard. (Refer to the owner's manual for guidance.)</i> |

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Is all the equipment in a dry location, free of any source of water, including rain, leaks, and spills? | NO: Relocate equipment away from water source such as plants and aquariums. | <i>Mixing electricity and water can result in a serious shock or fire hazard.</i> |
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Check Electrical Outlets and Switches

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| <input type="checkbox"/> If children are present, do all unused outlets have safety covers ? | NO: Purchase safety covers for all unused outlets. | <i>Children can suffer serious shock and burn injuries if they insert objects into outlets.</i> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Are all outlets and switches working properly? | NO: Have an electrician check the outlets and switches. | <i>Improperly operating outlets or switches may indicate that an unsafe wiring condition exists. A loose screw holding a wire or a worn out switch can lead to electrical arcing, overheating, or a fire.</i> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Are all outlets and switches cool to the touch? | NO: Make sure appliances are not overloading the outlet. Stop using them until an electrician checks the problem. | <i>Unusually warm outlets or switches may indicate an unsafe wiring condition exists, such as a loose electrical connection that can start a fire. (Some dimmer switches may become warm during normal use.)</i> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Do all electrical plugs fit snugly into all outlets? | NO: Have the outlet replaced. | <i>Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires. A loose connection cannot carry much current without getting hot.</i> |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> Do all outlets have faceplates covering all wiring? | NO: Install faceplates. | <i>Exposed wiring is a shock hazard. Children may stick objects into an electrical outlet that is not covered with a plate.</i> |
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In The Kitchen



Check Counter Top Appliances

- Are **all** counter top appliances **unplugged** when not in use?

NO: Unplug when not in use.

Unattended, plugged-in appliances may create an unnecessary risk of fire.

- Are **all** appliance cords placed so they will not come in contact with a **hot surface** (e.g., oven, range burner, toaster)?

NO: Relocate cords away from all heat sources.

Cords can melt or burn from excess heat. This can expose wires, which could lead to an electrical shock or fire.

- Are **all** appliances located away from the **sink**?

NO: Relocate away from the sink area. If you can't relocate them, make sure the appliances are plugged into GFCI-protected outlets.

Mixing electricity and water can result in an electric shock or fire hazard. Counter top appliances can be accidentally knocked into the sink or sprayed with water. Using a GFCI reduces the chance of a serious shock or electrocution.



Check Large Appliances

- Have you **ever** received even a **slight shock** (other than one from static electricity) from any appliance?

YES: Do not touch the appliance until it has been checked by an electrician. Turn the power off to the appliance at the circuit breaker.

A shock indicates an extremely hazardous wiring condition. There may be an internal electrical short or ground fault that could seriously injure someone who simply touches the appliance.

- Is the top of and area above the cooking range **free of combustibles** (e.g., potholders, paper, plastic utensils)?

NO: Remove all possible combustibles.

Using the range area for storage of combustibles may result in fires or burns.

In ALL The Bathrooms



Check Small Electrical Appliances (hairdryers, curling irons, electric razors, etc.)

Are **all** appliances **unplugged** when not in use?

NO: Unplug all small appliances when not in use.

Even when turned off, plugged-in electrical appliances may cause a shock hazard if they fall into water. Sometimes a worn switch may turn on with no one touching it.

Are **all** appliances in **good condition**?
That is, are they working the same with no signs of damaged wiring or parts? (smoke, sparks, and noises, etc.)

NO: Discard or have repaired.

Irregular operation is a sign of damage to electrical parts. Damaged appliances can become a shock or fire hazard.

Are **portable heaters** ever used in the bathroom?

YES: Consider installing a fixed heating fan. Avoid using portable heaters in the bathroom. If you use a portable heater, either plug it into a GFCI outlet or use a heater with a GFCI plug.

Portable heaters can be an electrocution hazard when used in bathrooms. The many grounded surfaces and water contribute to this hazard. A GFCI can help to reduce the risk of serious injury or electrocution.

In ALL Bedrooms



Check Electric Blankets

- Are **all** electric blankets in good condition?

Look for **cracks** or **breaks** in wiring, plugs, and connectors. Also look for **dark, charred**, or **frayed** spots on either side of the blanket.

NO: Discard blanket.

Any of these conditions indicate damage and a potential fire hazard.

- Is **anything covering** the blanket when in use?

YES: Remove object. Do not allow anything on top of the blanket when it is in use.

When covered by anything, including other blankets or pets, electric blankets may overheat. If uncertain of your blanket instructions, do not put anything, even a light bedspread or blanket on top of an operating electric blanket.

- Is the blanket **always** laid out **flat**?

NO: Unfold the blanket. Never fold electric blankets when in use.

Folded blankets may overheat.

- If tucked in, are the **heat producing wires bent** around the corners?

YES: Untuck the blanket. Never pinch the heat-producing wires.

Pinching the wires may cause damage. Damaged wires may create a fire hazard.

In Basement, Garage, and Workshops



Check Electrical Power Tools

- Are **all** cord connected power tools equipped with **3-prong plugs** or marked to indicate they are **double insulated**?

NO: Consider replacing older tools lacking these safety features. At the very least, make sure to plug them into a working GFCI outlet when using them.

These safety features reduce the risk of electric shock and electrocution. Metal-cased electrical tools without proper grounding become more dangerous as old internal insulation wears and cracks. Portable GFCIs are as effective as installed GFCIs.

Outdoors



Check Electric Garden Tools (lawn mowers, hedge trimmers, weed trimmers, etc.)

- Are **all** power cords in good condition (e.g., no **cracks**, **exposed wires**, etc.)?

NO: Have damaged cords replaced by a qualified repair facility.

Damaged cords that have exposed wires are shock and fire hazards, especially outdoors when in contact with moisture and the ground.

- Are **tools** in good condition and **operating properly**? Do they function in a consistent manner and show no signs of damaged wiring or parts?

NO: Discard them, or have the tools repaired by a qualified repair facility.

If a power tool is not operating as you would expect, it is usually a sign of damage. Damaged tools can become a shock or fire hazard when wiring, motors, or other electrical parts begin to wear out or fail.

- Are **corded electric power tools** used around ponds or other wet or damp areas?

YES: Avoid using corded tools in damp or wet locations. If a tool gets wet, unplug it before touching it. Let it dry thoroughly. If the tool was immersed have it tested at a qualified repair center before trying to use it again. Or use battery powered tools if possible.

An electric tool in water is a potential electrocution hazard. No home power tools and few submersible pumps are safety-tested for use with people in the water. Even double insulated tools can become dangerous if they get wet. Using GFCI protection can reduce the risk of injury.



Check Extension Cords Used Outdoors

- Are **extension cords** marked specifically for **outdoor use**?

NO: Replace with extension cords marked for outdoor use.

Cords made for indoor use will not withstand the temperature, humidity, and mechanical stresses of outdoor use. Indoor cords are more easily damaged and could become fire or shock hazards when used outdoors.

- Are **3-prong extension cords** available **and being used** with the grounded (3-prong) plugs on outdoor products?

NO: Obtain 3-prong extension cords with proper grounding (3-prong plugs and three-slot outlets).

Products with 3-prong plugs are designed to lower the risk of electric shock. Using a 3-prong product with a 2-prong extension cord eliminates the protection and increases the likelihood of electrocution or fire if the tool has an internal electrical fault.



Check Pools and Spas

- Is any **electrical equipment** used outdoors or around a swimming pool, spa or hot tub?

YES: Make sure all electrical equipment stays dry. Plug power cords only into working GFCI outlets. Unplug the equipment if it gets wet or immersed in the water before you try to "rescue" it.

Electrical products, even those in plastic or "double insulated" cases, can leak electrical current if they become wet from rain or splashing or have fallen into water. If they are wet, they are a serious shock or electrocution hazard.