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# Working Safely with Electricity This Holiday Season

Provided by  
The City of Cerritos and Area E

Here are some suggestions on how to mitigate many of the simple hazards people face when working with electricity in the home or office during the holiday season. For your consideration:



### Safe Use of Power Cords

General safety guideline for working with power cords:

- Remove power cords from outlets by pulling the plug, not the cord.
- Never attach a cord to another surface with nails or staples.
- Avoid kinking, twisting, binding or walking on cords.
- Repair or replace damaged or brittle electrical cords.
- Check appliances to make sure all cords are in good condition.
- Never remove the third prong from a three-pronged plug. The third prong grounds the device and protects from faulty electrical devices.
- Put plastic safety caps in all unused wall outlets.

### Water and Electricity Don't Mix

Water conducts electricity. It's possible to be electrocuted by water that has come in contact with electricity.

- Keep electrical appliances and power tools away from water.
- Never use electrical appliances in the shower or bath.
- Always dry your hands thoroughly before reaching for or touching any electrical appliance.
- Never use electrical appliances while standing in water
- Never use appliances while near water or outside when it's wet or raining
- Always use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets in the kitchen, bathroom, and other places where water is present.



## Know What to Do in the Case of Electrical Fires

If an electrical fire breaks out, follow these instructions:

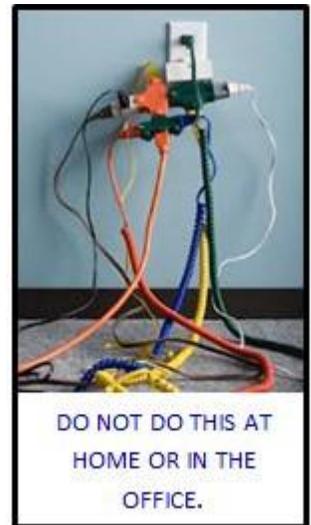
- Do not throw water on an electrical fire. You could be electrocuted.
- If an appliance catches fire, safely unplug it as soon as possible.
- Call 911 for the fire department.
- If you see smoke, fire, or smell a strange odor coming from wires, appliances or electric motors and if it's safe to do so, turn off the appliance and the main switch at the circuit breaker or fuse box.
- If you don't have a fire extinguisher, you can use baking soda to extinguish an electrical fire.



## Safety Checklist: Staying Safe at Home or the Office

You can prevent accidents and unnecessary risks by using this simple indoor electrical safety checklist:

- Put plastic safety caps in all unused wall outlets. This will prevent children from pushing objects into outlet openings.
- Most power tools and major appliances have three prongs for safety. If you don't have three-hole outlets, adapters are available at your local hardware store or home supply center. Do not remove the third prong.
- Repair or replace damaged or brittle electrical cords. They can cause shorts, shocks, or electrical fires (link to SF017). Check appliances to make sure all cords are in good condition.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to protect yourself from shock. These special outlets prevent electric shock by detecting electrical faults and shutting off electricity to the outlet when necessary. They are especially important in kitchens, bathrooms, and other places where water is present.
- Use electrical cords properly. To avoid damaging cords, remove them from outlets by pulling the plug, not the cord itself. Never attach a cord to another surface with nails or staples, which can break the insulation. Avoid kinking, twisting, binding, or walking on cords.
- Safely reset your circuit breakers and replace blown fuses.



For additional information on working safely with electricity, please visit: [www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com) and click on the word "Safety" on the bottom of the home page.



[www.sce.com](http://www.sce.com)