

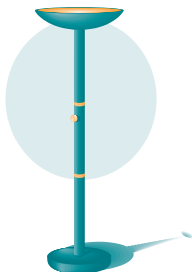
take a bath or shower. Keep batteries on hand for flashlights and radios in case of a power outage. Use surge protectors on electronic devices and appliances to prevent damage.

### Space Heaters

Space heaters are meant to supply supplemental heat. Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from any combustible materials such as bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture and rugs. Don't use in rooms where children are unsupervised and remember to turn off and unplug when not in use.

### Halogen Floor Lamps

Halogen floor lamps operate at much higher temperatures than a standard incandescent light bulb. Never place a halogen floor lamp where it could come in contact with draperies, clothing or other combustible materials.



# Home Safety

## Electrical hazards in your home



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Each year many Americans are injured in and around their homes. Learn how to recognize and correct electrical safety hazards.

# Electrical safety hazards in your home

## Outlets

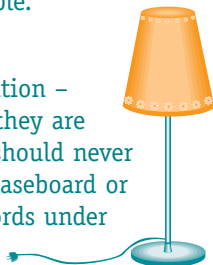
Check outlets for loose-fitting plugs that can overheat and lead to fire. Make sure there are safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children.



Unusually warm or hot outlets may indicate that an unsafe wiring condition exists. Unplug cords from these outlets and have a qualified electrician check the wiring as soon as possible.

## Electric Cords

Make sure cords are in good condition – not frayed or cracked. Make sure they are placed out of traffic areas. Cords should never be nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard or to another object. Do not place cords under carpets or rugs or rest any furniture on them.



## Extension Cords

An overloaded extension cord can cause a fire. Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent household wiring.

## Plugs

Make sure your plugs fit securely into outlets. Never force a plug into an outlet if it doesn't fit. Never remove the ground pin (the third prong) to make a three-prong fit a two-conductor outlet; this could lead to an electrical shock.

## Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI's)

GFCI's should be used in any area where water and electricity may come into contact. GFCI's

can prevent serious injury from electrical shock. Test GFCI's regularly according to the manufacturer's instructions to make sure they are working properly.

## Light Bulbs

Check the wattage of all bulbs in light fixtures to make sure they are the correct wattage for the size of the fixture. Make sure bulbs are screwed in securely; loose bulbs may overheat.



## Circuit Breakers/Fuses

Circuit breakers and fuses should be the correct size current rating for their circuit. If you do not know the correct size, have an electrician identify and label the size to be used. Always replace a fuse with the same size fuse.

## Water and Electricity Don't Mix

Don't leave plugged-in appliances where they might fall in contact with water. If a plugged-in appliance falls into water, NEVER reach in to pull it out – even if it's turned off. First turn off the power source at the panelboard and then unplug the appliance.



## Appliances

If an appliance repeatedly blows a fuse, trips a circuit breaker or if it has given you a shock, unplug it and have it repaired or replaced.

## Lightning

During an electrical storm, do not use appliances (i.e., hairdryers, toasters and radios) or telephones (except in an emergency). Do not

