

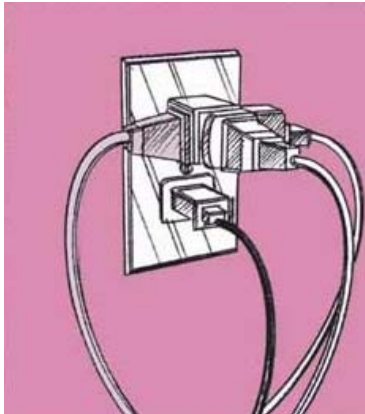
# Electrical Fire Safety Tips

Fires can strike anywhere at any time. Along with installing smoke detectors on every level of your home and in the sleeping areas, you should have a fire extinguisher in key areas such as the kitchen, bedrooms, workshop, and garage. Walk your family through a fire drill so everyone knows what to do and where to go in case of fire. If you live or work in a high-rise building, locate the fire exits on your floor. If an alarm sounds, remember that you should always use the fire stairs, not the elevator.

Every room in the house should have at least two escape exits. If one of these is a window from a second story, install ladders that can be dropped from the windows. Make sure family members know where the outside meeting place is where the family will reunite if they have to leave the house in case of fire.

The following simple precautions will help minimize the risk of a fire in your home:

- Assign a special closet for combustible materials and dangerous tools that you don't want your children to touch. Put a good lock on the door and a heat detector inside to alert you to any fire danger.
- Don't overload electrical circuits with too many appliances. Plug one appliance into each socket. Consider using a multi-outlet strip with a built-in circuit breaker when plugging multiple items into one socket. If your fuses are blowing or your circuit breakers are popping, hire an electrician to look at your system.



**Don't overload electrical circuits with too many appliances.**

- Don't run extension cords under rugs or carpets. The cords wear easily and may short out causing a fire.
- Nails or staples used to attach electrical cords to the walls or baseboards can damage the cords and cause fire or shock hazards. Tape cords to walls or floors instead of using nails or staples.
- Replace frayed electrical cords before they burn or cause a fire.
- Keep combustibles away from the furnace, which can emit flames or sparks.
- An electrical outlet or switch that is unusually warm or hot to the touch may indicate a potentially dangerous wiring condition. In such a situation unplug cords, avoid using switches, and call an electrician to check the wiring.
- Ceiling fixtures and recessed lights trap heat. Since overheating can lead to fire, don't use a high-wattage bulb in such a fixture. If you don't know the correct wattage, use a bulb of 60 or fewer watts.
- Always extinguish the fire in a wood stove before leaving the house and before going to bed.
- Unplug small kitchen appliances, such as toasters and coffee makers, after each use. In the bathroom, unplug the hair dryer, curling irons or any other small appliance when not in use.
- An electric blanket should not be tucked in at the sides. It may overheat and start a fire. And be sure to turn a heating pad off before you go to sleep. It can cause burns even at a relatively low setting.