

Home Electrical Safety Checklist

Protect your family from fire and other electrical hazards by using this short checklist.

These simple and easy steps will help you to identify and to correct electrical danger commonly found in homes. For more information, visit www.greystonepower.com.

The Basics

- Check the wattage of all bulbs in your lights for appropriate wattage for the size of the fixtures
- Check all lamp cords and extension cords to make sure they're free of damage and are placed out of walking areas
- Check all wall outlets and switches to make sure they're working properly

The Bedroom

- Check for tamper resistant outlets
- Check portable heaters to make sure they're placed away from combustibles and in an area where they won't tip over
- Check for the presence and proper placement of smoke alarms and test each one

The Kitchen

- Check all counter top appliances. Make sure they are in good condition and not plugged in when not in use. Keep appliance away from heat and water
- Check all large appliances for proper function and clearance

The Bathroom

- Check for Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) and if they are working properly
- Check small electrical products such as hair dryers and curling irons. Make sure they are in good condition and not plugged in when not in use and kept away from water

The Basement and Garage

- Check your breaker box



Electrical Safety At Home



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Accidents Are Preventable

Just use caution!



Most people think injuries happen by chance or “accident”—a word that implies something that can't be foreseen or avoided. But electrical injuries typically can be both foreseen and avoided. This brochure points out how to be safe around electricity's powerful force.

Did You Know?

Electricity is so easy to use that you probably take it for granted. But you might be surprised to learn that each year, electricity-related incidents in the home cause approximately:

- 300 electrocutions
- 12,000 shock and burn injuries
- 150,000 fires

Sources: NSC, CPSC, and OSH

Objects Commonly Placed in Electrical Outlets

Every year, 2,400 children are injured after inserting household objects into electrical outlets. These are the most common objects placed in outlets:



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation, Inc.

Staying Safe Around Electricity

Electricity provides comfort and convenience to our lives. However, electricity can be dangerous if improperly used and must be handled with care and respect. It's easy to practice electrical safety. Remember that electricity always takes the shortest way to the ground. It will go through wire, metal, wet objects ... or you. Electricity is all around us. Each year in the U.S. hundreds are electrocuted in their homes, and thousands are injured in electricity-related accidents that could have been prevented. For a safer home inside and out, follow these important suggestions.



Indoor **Routinely check your electrical appliances and wiring**



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 panel board and then unplug the appliance. If you have an appliance that

has gotten wet, don't use it until it has been checked by a qualified repair person. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) can help prevent electrocution. They should be used in any area where water and electricity may come into contact. When a GFCI senses current leakage in an electrical circuit, it assumes a ground fault has occurred. It then interrupts power fast enough to help prevent serious injury from electrical shock. Test GFCIs according to the manufacturer's instructions monthly and after major electrical storms to make sure they are working properly.

Outdoor **Outdoor accidents often occur when you're tired or distracted**



Never touch or approach downed power lines. Always assume that downed wires are energized. Call GreyStone Power immediately to report downed wires at 770-949-7880. Keep ladders, antennas, long-handled equipment and other conductive objects away from power lines.

Never use electric tools near water or in the rain. Don't fly kites near electric lines. If kite string gets caught in a power line, leave it alone; don't try to remove the string from the line. Instead, call GreyStone Power for assistance. Never climb a utility pole, or a tree that is near electric wires. Never enter a substation or fenced enclosure that surrounds electrical equipment. The fenced-off area is extremely dangerous!

Disaster **Unplug electronic equipment before the storm arrives**



During an electrical storm, do not use appliances (i.e., hairdryers, toasters and radios) or telephones (except in an emergency); do not 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, appliances, phones, fax machines and modems. Space heaters are meant to supply supplemental heat. Keep space heaters at least 3 ft. 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. Do not use space heaters with extension cords; plug directly into an outlet on a relatively unburdened circuit.

Holiday **Risks for electrical fires are greater during the holidays**



Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up. Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory. Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe.

Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires, they should not be warm to the touch. Do not leave holiday lights on unattended. Extension cords should only be used on a temporary basis—not as permanent household wiring. Make sure extension cords have safety closures to help prevent young children from shock and burn injuries.