

Plug Into the Facts - Electrical Safety

Tacoma Fire Prevention Bureau 3471 S. 35th St. Tacoma WA, 98409

Electrical Safety

Electricity is there to help brew your morning coffee, operate your computer, heat your home and run your television. We use electricity so often that we seldom remember about the dangers associated with it. Take a moment to think about how often you depend upon electricity and answer the following questions. Every question you answer with "no", is an opportunity for you to make your home a safer place to live.

Safety Checklist

- _____ Are electrical cords in good condition, not frayed or cracked?
- _____ Are electrical outlets over loaded in your home?
- _____ Are electrical cords kept out from beneath furniture and rugs?
- _____ Do all outlets and light switches work properly.
- _____ Are extension cords being used like "permanent" wiring.
- _____ When buying electrical appliances do you look for products which meet the Underwriter's Laboratory (UL) standard for safety?
- _____ Are heat producing electrical appliances unplugged when you are not using them?
- _____ Are children allowed to play with or around electrical appliances like space heaters, irons and hair dryers?
- _____ Are clothes, curtains and other potentially combustible items at least three feet from all heaters?



Safety Tips

- _____ If an appliance has a three-prong plug, use it only in a three-slot outlet. Never force it to fit into a two-slot outlet or extension cord.
- _____ Immediately shut off, then professionally replace, light switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker. Use safety closures to "child-proof" electrical outlets.
- _____ Check your electrical tools regularly for signs of wear. If the cords are frayed or cracked, replace them.
- _____ Replace any tool if it causes even small electrical shocks, overheats, shorts out or gives off smoke or sparks.

Remember

Never use water on an electrical fire, you could get shocked. If the fire is small, turn the power off and use a multi-purpose (ABC) dry-chemical extinguisher to put out the fire. If you can't turn the power off, or the fire is large, evacuate your home and dial 9-1-1 from a safe phone.

For More Information Contact:
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