



# Don't be an electrical fire statistic. Exercise care and don't overload circuits

**Every year home electrical problems result in 68,000 fires, 500 deaths, 2,300 injuries, and nearly \$9 Million in property losses.**

The vast majority of home electrical fires are due to misuse, poor maintenance, incorrect wiring installation, and overloaded circuits and extension cords.



### ***Follow these simple steps to reduce risk...***

- Never overload extension cords or wall sockets; avoid connecting too many holiday decorations to a single circuit.
- Routinely check electrical appliances and wiring for signs of fraying; repair, discard, and replace prudently.
- Use only a 3-prong plug in a 3-slot outlet; never remove the third prong or force fit it into a 2-slot outlet or extension cord.
- Keep electrical appliances away from wet floors and counters; pay special care to electrical appliances in bathrooms and kitchens.
- When buying electrical appliances, look for products evaluated by a nationally recognized laboratory, i.e. Underwriters Laboratories (UL)
- Keep electrical appliances like space heaters and irons out of reach of children; child-proof electrical outlets with safety closures.
- Clothing, draperies, and other potentially combustible items should be at least 3 feet from heaters.
- Immediately shut off and professionally replace switches that are hot to the touch and lights that flicker.
- Check and maintain smoke alarms.
- Prepare and practice a home escape plan with the family.



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