

Electrical Safety

Flipping a light switch. Plugging in a coffemaker. Charging a laptop computer. These are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind.



SAFETY TIPS

- Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified inspector or in accordance with local requirements.
- **Only use one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) plugged into a receptacle outlet at a time.**
- **Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, microwave ovens, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.**
- Test Arc-fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) and ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) once a month according to the manufacturer's recommendations. You do not need a flame to start a fire. Fires can start when heat builds up near things that burn. This can happen when a hot light bulb is near things that burn, such as cloth or paper, or a cord has been placed under a carpet.
- **Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.**
- Use a light bulb with the right number of watts. There should be a sticker that indicates the right number of watts.
- Check electrical cords for damage and do not use frayed or damaged cords.

Important Reminder

Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breaker
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
- Flickering or dimming lights
- Sparks from an outlet

