

## RECOGNIZING POTENTIAL ELECTRICAL HAZARDS AROUND YOUR HOME



- Do not use appliances, power tools, or extension cords that have damaged or exposed wiring.
- Be aware of where your service cable attaches to your home - keep metal ladders clear of this area.
- All electrical work should be performed by a licensed electrician.
- Do not run electrical cords under rugs or carpets.
- Make sure your bathroom, kitchen, and outdoor outlets are GFCI protected. If they are not contact a licensed electrician to have them replaced.
- Always keep electrical appliances away from water and moisture.
- Avoid overloading your electrical outlets. Cubes taps - those little boxes that allow you to plug several appliances into a single outlet - may seem like a major convenience, but they can put you on the fast track to circuit overload, overheated wiring, and even fire. If you absolutely must use one, do the math before plugging in. Know the maximum power demand that the cube-tapped receptacle can handle and be certain that the collective pull (power requirement) of the devices you're plugging into it doesn't exceed that rating.
- Workshop. Ungrounded faulty tools are always hazardous. Make sure power tools are grounded or are double-insulated. Wear rubber-soled shoes, stand on a rubber mat, and keep work floors dry. Receptacles in basements and garages should have a ground fault circuit interrupter.
- Replace missing or broken wall plates. Wall plates protect your fingers from contacting the electrical wiring behind them. Broken wall plates (or the absence of them altogether) can be especially dangerous in the dark. When trying to locate a switch by touch, you may end up being shocked or electrocuted if you miss the mark and touch live wires instead.
- Protect children with outlet covers. Outlet covers prevent babies and small children from sticking their fingers and other objects into unoccupied receptacles, protecting them against shock and electrocution. You can either use the plug-in type, or opt for special child safety wall plates, which feature built-in, retractable covers that automatically snap back into place when outlets aren't in use.