

HOME SAFETY CHECKLIST

Indoor Safety

1. Outlets do not have loose-fitting plugs. They can overheat and cause a fire.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
2. Wall plates are in good condition and on every outlet. Broken or missing wall plates can lead to electric shock, which can result in serious injury.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
3. There are safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children. Children may put their fingers in outlets, which will cause electrocution and serious injury.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
4. Outlets and switch plates are not unusually hot to the touch. If they are, immediately unplug cords from these outlets and do not use the switches, as they might have faulty wiring or be overloaded and cause a fire. Have a qualified, licensed electrician check the wiring as soon as possible.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
5. Cords, outlets and connectors are in good condition, not frayed or cracked. Damaged cords, outlets or connectors may cause a fire or electric shock.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
6. Outlets and extension cords are not overloaded. Outlets are overloaded when more appliances are plugged into it than it was designed to handle. Check extension cords for manufacturers' ratings. Overloaded extension cords can cause fires.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
7. Lamp, extension, telephone and other cords are placed out of the flow of traffic. Cords stretched across walkways may cause someone to trip.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
8. Cords are not nailed or stapled to the wall, baseboard or any other object. Stapling or nailing through a cord could cause a fire or shock those who touch the cord.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
9. Light bulbs in fixtures and lamps are the correct wattage. Replace bulbs that have higher wattage than recommended; if you don't know the correct wattage, check with the manufacturer of the fixture. Light bulbs with too high of a wattage rating can damage lamps and fixtures, potentially causing an electric fire.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
10. Light bulbs are screwed in securely. Loose bulbs may overheat, causing a fire.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
11. Lamps are off whenever a room will remain unoccupied for an extended time period. Not only does this conserve energy, but lamps might overheat causing a fire that no one would be present to notice.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
12. Power strips or surge protectors/suppressors should match your needs and be placed on all electrical outlets. Not all power strips are surge suppressors. Not all surge suppressors can handle the same load and electrical events. Check the manufacturers' label. Protect appliances from voltage surges or drops; plug them into surge protectors.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
13. Appliances are protected by a surge protector bearing the seal of a nationally recognized certification agency. See previous tip. Appliances, like computers, should be protected from surges in voltage or lightning strikes that could damage them.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement
14. Space heaters are positioned at least three feet away from any combustible materials, such as bedding, clothing, draperies, furniture, and rugs. If space heaters are too close to combustible materials, they could start a fire.	<input type="checkbox"/> OK <input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement

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| <p>15. Portable space heaters are plugged directly into an outlet, not into an extension cord, and are turned off and unplugged when not in use.
Space heaters draw 1500 watts of electric current. Extension cords can overheat and cause fires.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |
| <p>16. Space heaters are not in use in children's rooms.
Playing with or accidentally touching or knocking over a space heater could cause serious injury or start a fire. Young children should never be left unattended around space heaters.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |
| <p>17. Halogen floor lamps are not placed where they could come in contact with draperies, clothing or other combustible materials.
As with space heaters, halogen floor lamps too close to combustible materials may start a fire.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |
| <p>18. A flashlight and self-powered radio are handy, in case power is lost.
A flashlight will help you safely navigate your home during a power outage. Self-powered radios provide you access to the latest weather information and safety advisories during an outage. An emergency kit should be stored in an easily accessible spot and include either a battery powered or crank flashlight and radio.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |
| <p>19. Electrical appliances are not placed where they might get wet.
Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances, such as refrigerators and dryers. Electrical parts can then become grounded and pose an electric shock hazard or overheat, causing a fire. Do not use an appliance that has been wet; before you use it, a qualified service repair dealer should examine the appliance.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |
| <p>20. Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) are installed, particularly in bathrooms or kitchens, where electric shock is more likely to occur.
A GFCI protects against accidental electric shock or electrocution by acting immediately to shut off the circuit if it senses a ground fault or "leak" of current of the circuit. Test GFCIs monthly and after every major electrical storm.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |

Outdoor Safety

Many of the above indoor safety tips also apply to outdoor safety, for example those relating to electrical safety with cords and outlets. Be sure to observe the above indoor electrical safety tips on the outside of your home as well.

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| <p>1. Extension cords are marked for outdoor use and rated for the power needs of your tools.
Overloaded cords may lead to electric shock and serious injury.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |
| <p>2. Don't use indoor extension cords outside.
Extension cords not made for outside use may become damaged and lead to electric shock and serious injury.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |
| <p>3. Trees and items on your property, for example children's playground equipment, are clear of power lines.
Coming into contact with a line or an object touching a power line will result in electric shock or even death. If playground equipment or trees are too near power lines (within 10 feet), arrange to move or remove the equipment or report trees in power lines to your local utility.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |
| <p>4. Know if underground electric service is provided to your house and where underground electric lines are located on your property.
Always call 1-800-DIG-TESS (toll-free) to locate underground utility lines at least two working days before digging on your property. In fact, state law requires such a call before digging 16 inches or deeper. Coming into contact with an underground electric line will cause serious injury or even death.</p> <p>Transformers enclosed in large metal boxes, padlocked and set on concrete pads at ground level and the lack of visible electric lines from a utility pole to the house indicate underground electric service.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |
| <p>5. Keep outdoor electrical outlets covered and dry.
Water or other materials can get into outlets and cause a short or electric shock, which can result in serious injury or death, when items are plugged into the outlet.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |
| <p>6. Make sure electric outlets around pools, ponds, hot tubs or other water are equipped with GFCIs (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters).
As explained above, GFCIs automatically shut off when the circuit is interrupted, which could save your life or prevent serious injury if water comes into contact with the electric outlet.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> OK
<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Improvement |

