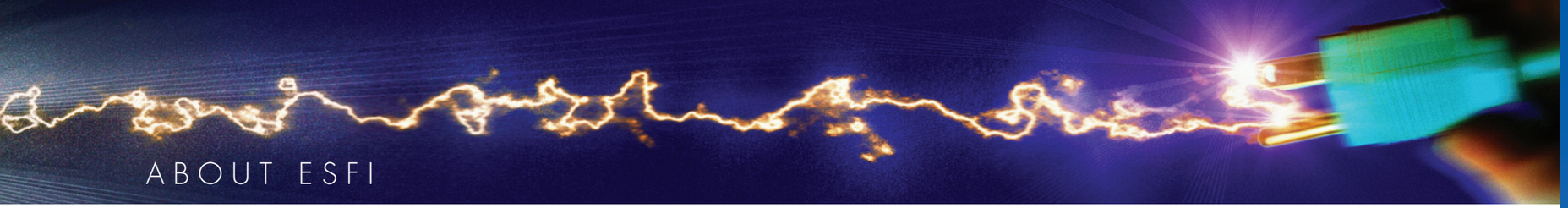

ABOUT ESFI

The Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) is dedicated exclusively to promoting electrical safety. ESFI is a 501(c)(3) organization funded by electrical manufacturers and distributors, independent testing laboratories, utilities, safety and consumer groups, and trade and labor associations. ESFI sponsors National Electrical Safety Month each May, and engages in public education campaigns and proactive media relations to help reduce property damage, personal injury and death due to electrical accidents.

ESFi
Electrical Safety Foundation International

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Be Safe...

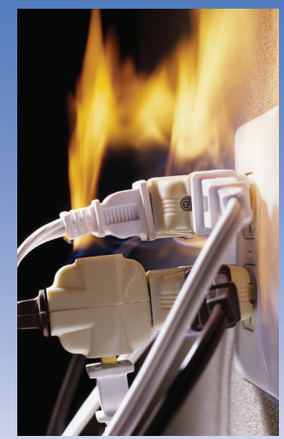
- Make sure smoke alarms are installed on every floor outside sleeping areas and in every bedroom, and are in good working order. Change your batteries twice yearly and replace smoke alarms every five years.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors in your home.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to provide protection from lethal current and test them monthly. If they fail the test, have them replaced.
- Consider having arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) installed, which detect electrical arcs and shut off power to the circuit, preventing an electrical fire hazard.

Know Your Code !!!

Know which version of the National Electrical Code® (NEC®) applies in your area. Ask your electrician to follow NFPA 73, Residential Electrical Maintenance Code for One- and Two-Family Dwellings. If your area has not adopted the most recent version of the NEC®, or if it has rescinded specific provisions, certain electrical safety features may not apply. Contact your state or local governing entity for details.

Electricity is a powerful tool. It can also be a lethal hazard. Better safety standards have reduced electrical hazards that cause deaths, injuries and property damage. But good safety habits are still the best prevention against electrical hazards. Visit www.electrical-safety.org for more information on electrical hazards and precautions.

HOME WIRING SAFETY



ESFi
Electrical Safety Foundation International

Do hidden dangers lurk behind the walls of your house?

Do you know how to protect yourself and your family against shock or electrical fires? The electrical Safety Foundation International wants you to know how to recognize and prevent electrical hazards.

Home Wiring Hazards

Electricity is one of the leading causes of home fires, blamed for thousands of deaths and injuries and over $1 billion in property damage each year. Wiring, switches, receptacles and outlets account for a large share of both electrocutions and electrical fires.[1] Electrical fires that begin in the walls can spread rapidly before being detected, making them devastating and deadly.

Many electrocutions and home electrical fires can be prevented. Know how to look for signs of home wiring hazards and use electrical safety awareness to keep you and your family safe.

[1]National Fire Protection Association, *U.S. Home Product Report, Appliances & Equipment, 11/05*.

ESFI safety tips

Home Wiring Safety from ESFI

Contact a licensed electrician if you detect these potential hazards:

- Have a licensed electrician or electrical inspector check your homes electrical wiring and distribution system to reduce the likelihood of electrocutions and fires.
- ESFI recommends having an electrical inspection to diagnose potential hazards if your home is 40 years old or older.
- If you suspect a wiring problem, do not attempt to fix it yourself. Shut off the circuit and have the electrical system checked.
- Every home electrical system should have grounding ability. Many homes built before 1950 lack a ground wire.
- Flickering lights, tripped circuit breakers or blown fuses are indications of possible electrical problems. Arcs, sparks, sizzles, buzzes or an unusual odor in the vicinity of a receptacle, switch or lighting fixture is a sign of an equipment problem.
- Outlets, switches, or cords that feel warm or hot to the touch may indicate an electrical problem.
- All receptacle outlets and switches must have wall plates.
- Have receptacles replaced if plugs do not fit tightly in the receptacle.
- Electrical shocks—even mild ones—are an indication of an electrical hazard and should be checked.

The Do's and Don'ts:

Do's:

- Use receptacle outlet safety covers to minimize injuries to children.
- Keep children and flammable materials away from space heaters and other heat sources.
- Follow manufacturer's instructions when operating any electrical tool or appliance.
- Limit use of extension cords. Extension cords are intended for temporary use only. Make sure that you do not overload an extension cord.
- Ensure light bulbs are the proper wattage for each lighting fixture.
- Replace blown fuses with the correct size. Larger sized fuses pose a fire hazard.

Don'ts:

- Do not overload outlets. This can occur if too many appliances are plugged into the same circuit. Blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers may indicate overloading.
- Do not use extension cords with space heaters or air conditioners and make sure your space heater will automatically shut off if tipped over.
- Be sure to inspect tools, appliances and extension cords. If you discover worn or exposed wiring, discontinue use immediately to avoid shock and fire hazards.