

# HELPFUL ELECTRICITY

## *Don't Take It For Granted*

It's hard to imagine life without electricity. Heating, cooling, lighting, and refrigeration are just a few of its common uses. But electricity can be dangerous. To protect your family and yourself, learn the basic rules for electrical safety.

### Electric Dangers

Electric conveniences can be dangerous. Overheated wires, fixtures or appliances can cause fires. Some chemicals can catch fire from just a spark. *Never use water on an electrical fire.*

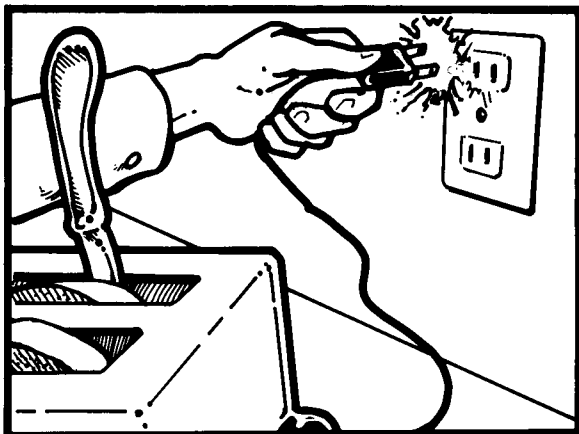
Electricity can burn, shock or even kill you. When you are shocked, your muscles can contract violently. If you are on a high ladder, you might fall. If you are using equipment such as a chain saw, a shock could make you drop it, injuring yourself or someone else.

When electric equipment is not turned off after use, the next person to use it might not be prepared for the power to be on and could be shocked or injured.

### Electricity Facts

Electricity always tries to reach the ground. It travels over "conductors:" anything that allows electricity to flow. People, water, trees, damp ground and metal are excellent conductors.

An "insulator" is the opposite of a conductor. Electricity cannot flow easily through insulators like plastic, rubber, dry wood or glass.



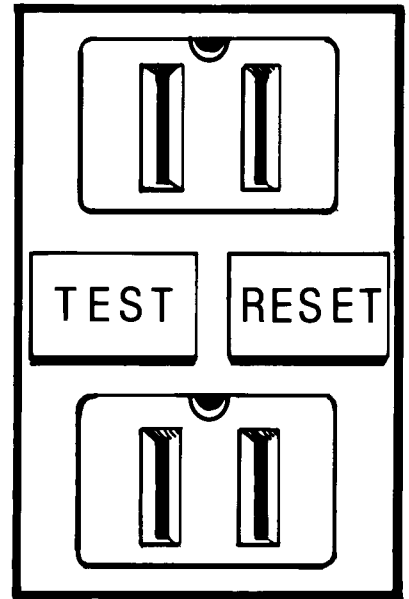
Unplug appliances before removing anything from them.

### Electric Safety Basics

1. Don't use any appliance while you are touching metal or anything wet.
2. Unplug appliances before cleaning or removing anything from them.
3. Teach children electrical safety rules, like "don't fly kites near power lines." Use plastic guards on electric outlets.
4. Repair any appliance that shocks you, sparks or smokes.
5. Household appliances such as space heaters and televisions give off heat. Do not place them near anything flammable. Unplug heaters and irons when you're not using them.
7. Plug power tools into grounded outlets installed with Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs), to help prevent shocks.
8. Install GFCIs in areas that can get wet. Also install weatherproof covers on outdoor outlets.
9. Keep work areas clean. Oily rags, newspapers, and sawdust can burn if an electric spark flies.
10. Check with your local utility before you dig or work near suspended power lines.
11. If someone has been shocked, never attempt first aid until the current is no longer going through the body.
12. Have a qualified electrician inspect all wiring in your home. Know the location of all fuses and circuit breakers, and how to use them.

### Enjoying Electricity

If you follow the important rules for electrical safety, you'll be able to safely enjoy the many ways electricity helps us. You may want to get a book on electrical safety for extra protection.



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