

Electrical Safety Tips

The electrical current in most homes and buildings has enough power to cause death by electrocution. Even a simple task such as changing a light bulb without unplugging a lamp can be hazardous by coming into contact with a “hot” or live part of a socket.

Here are some general tips for safety around electricity:

- Restrict children from operating electrical equipment
- Inspect tools, equipment, power cords, and electrical fittings for damage or wear prior to use – if you are uncertain, do not use
- Replace or repair any damages immediately by a skilled person
- Protect plugs in outlets from damage. If prongs appear bent, do not attempt to reshape and have it properly repaired
- Disconnect power before making any adjustments or repairs to equipment.
- Use tape to secure cords to floors or walls, not nails or staples
- Use appropriately rated amperage or wattage cords or equipment
- Use the correct size fuse
- Keep halogen lights away from combustible materials such as cloths, curtains, paper
- Have “Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters” (GFCIs) installed around wet or damp areas
- Know where breakers and boxes are located and keep clear in case of an emergency
- Label breaker and boxes clearly to identify which switch for outlet or room
- Note any unusually warm/hot outlets or cords – unplug and repair immediately
- Do not use outlets or cords that have exposed wiring
- Eliminate octopus connections – do not plug in several power cords to a single outlet
- Pull the plug, not the cord
- Never break off a 3rd prong on a plug or use a plug with it missing
- Keep electrical cords away from heat, water and oil
- Do not tie cords in knots, loop for storage
- In the event of an electrical accident, do not touch the person or equipment – always disconnect the power source first.

You are part of prevention. Make electrical safety an important part of your life. When we forget simple safety practices and allow other things to take priority, then someone will likely get hurt. Attitude is everything - it's that extra something that means you care about safety. For more safety information, contact the Occupational Health and Safety Manager, Gail Sinclair at 541-3036 or email: gsinclair@ssrsb.ca