

THE RISK OBSERVER

Safety Information for Residents

ELECTRICAL SAFETY AT HOME

All the modern conveniences electricity brings us in everyday life are often taken for granted. Hazards associated with electricity have the potential of causing burns, electrical shock, and fire. Simple mistakes made where electricity is involved can have very serious consequence. We want to reduce these risks by reminding you to take the following precautions, and to make your property's management aware of any electrical hazards you encounter.

- Inspect electrical equipment and cords before you use them. Make sure they are properly insulated and the connections are tight. Pay attention to tangles or kinks in the cord and be sure to straighten the cord prior to use
- Make sure electric plugs match their receptacles, and never alter a plug. Never remove the "third" prong, or the ground, from a cord so it fit a receptacle. Never use a cord that has been altered.
- Never over use a receptacle or a power strip.
- Make sure your hands are dry, as well as the surrounding area when using or handling any electrical appliance.
- Pay close attention to older appliances. Regular use over a long period of time increases the risk of electrical malfunction.
- Look out for damaged or bent prongs and bare or frayed wires.
- Erratic operation of an appliance could be a sign of a loose connection or an electrical short.
- Do not use an appliance if you experience a tingle or pin pricking sensation when touching it or its controls.
- Avoid using extension cords unless absolutely necessary.
- Never run extension cords under carpet, rugs, or through doorways where they may incur damage from being pinched or walked on.
- Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for your appliance or equipment.
- Do not use any electrical equipment that sparks, smokes, smells, or burns.
- Keep all electrical items away from sinks, tubs, any wet areas.
- If the power goes out, unplug all appliances so nothing accidentally is turned on when the power is restored.
- Always remove cords from the receptacles by their plug.
- In case of fire cause by electricity, NEVER attempt to put it out with water. Water is a conductor of electricity and electrical shock can occur.

Unplug appliances when not in use. Appliances that are plugged in still carry electrical current, even if the switch is off.