

ELECTRICITY SAFETY TIPS

From Your Building Inspector



Don't Let Electrical Cords Create a Danger in Your House!

Overloaded receptacle outlets and undersized electrical extension cords can cause a fire or electrocution danger.

Use Electrical Cords Safely

- Never overload electrical cords or power strips. Electrical cords and power strips have a designated load capacity. Be sure the total amount of energy used by appliances and lights plugged into the cord or strip does not exceed that capacity.
- Check all plug-in appliances and devices to see if they have a listed tag, either as a stamp or sticker on the device, or a tag on the power cord. Listed appliances provide assurance that the device meets product safety standards. (See [OSHA website](#) for a list of nationally recognized testing laboratories.)
- Don't use appliances that have damaged cords.
- Extension cords should not be used as a substitute for permanently wired receptacle outlets.

Electrical cords must be the proper wire size for the load they serve. Overloaded cords will become hot and can start a fire. Avoid permanent use of extension cords. Appliance cords and extension cords are susceptible to physical damage from foot traffic, furniture, house pets, swinging doors and many other causes, so protect them from damage. Contact your local building safety department for more information.

