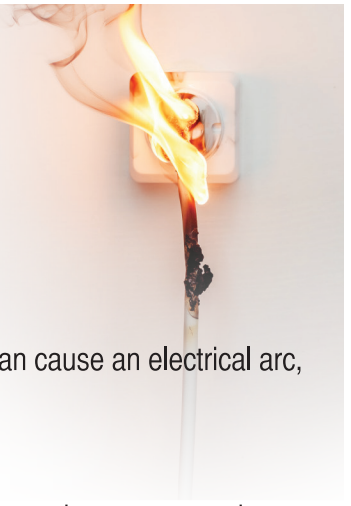


There Are **OVER 35,000** Home Electrical Fires **EVERY. SINGLE. YEAR.**



10 Electrical Issues that Increase Your Risks:

- 1** **Discolored Outlet/Switches** that stick and are hard to operate.
- 2** **Loose Outlets:** Plugs should sit firmly in the outlet. If plugs are loose and fall out easily, they can cause an electrical arc, which can be a fire risk.
- 3** **Dimming of Lights** when other devices are turned on.
- 4** **Standard Outlets in Wet Areas:** GFCI outlets should be installed in kitchens, bathrooms, garages, basements and any other area that gets exposed to moisture.
- 5** **Frequently Tripped Breakers or Blown Fuses:** Breakers should not trip unless there is an event such as an electrical spike. If they do and they trip again after you reset them it could be an indication that the circuit is overloaded.
- 6** **Wrong Wattage Light Bulbs:** Although it may be tempting to ramp up the wattage of a bulb in a fixture to increase the amount of light, it is not a safe thing to do. Using higher than recommended wattages is called over-lamping and can be very dangerous. The heat from the bulb can scorch or melt the socket, and increase the risk of an electrical arc. And, even after the bulb is replaced, the damage is still a potential risk. If you don't know what wattage to use (typically there is a sticker inside the fixture with the recommended wattage) stick with 60-watt or lower or switch to LED fixtures or bulbs, which produce no heat and have a longer life.
- 7** **Overloaded Power Strips & Outlets:** Power strips and outlets are designed to carry a specific amount of electrical current. Plugging more devices into them increases your risk of an electrical fire. Here's a few tips to keep in mind:
 - a. Don't plug more than one power strip together.
 - b. Don't use plugging adapters in outlets or in power strips.
 - c. Use power strips with built in circuit breakers. If it gets too hot it will trip for an added layer of protection.
- 8** **Non-Standard Wiring or Exposed Wiring:** If Uncle Jed rigged up some additional wiring for you to plug all your fancy electronics into but it just looks funky (wires sticking out of the wall, exposed wiring or uncovered junction boxes) you should have these looked at to ensure they are safe.
- 9** **Aluminum Wiring:** Homes built in the 1960's to 1970's often used aluminum wiring to reduce costs. This type of wiring was not designed to carry the electrical current we use in our homes today (think about the difference in our appliances and electrical devices from the earlier 60's to today) and should be inspected.
- 10** **NOT HAVING ELECTRICAL PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE DONE:** It's important that every home have an electrical inspection done, especially if your home is over ten years old or you have had work done by an unlicensed electrician (...work done by Uncle Joe, a previous homeowner, or nonelectrical contractors are often not done correctly).



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