

# ELECTRICAL HOME SAFETY

INFORMATION AND RESOURCES ON THE DANGERS OF ELECTRICITY IN THE HOME

In addition to being a primary cause of fires, electricity can cause injuries and fatalities. Proper installation, maintenance and use of your houses electrical system is critical to prevent potential shocks or electrocution.

The NYS Building Codes regulate the safe installation of home electrical systems. That code incorporates by reference the most current version of the National Electrical Code (NEC) also referred to as National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 70.

As with other building codes, existing building electrical systems are allowed for use until their condition presents a hazard to life, health or property. At that time, they are required to be brought up to current code requirements. In some instances, property insurance companies will not insure buildings if they still have certain electrical system components, like fuses. Select products that are marked by a national testing laboratory, which means the product has been tested and is safe to use for its intended purpose. Using an electrically powered product in a way it was not intended or if it is damaged increases the chances of shock and electrocution.

The Consumer Product Safety Act is intended to assure that the electrical devices used in homes are safe and is enforced by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The CPSC oversees the voluntary product safety testing procedures and can order product recalls for those products that are determined to be unsafe, requiring manufacturers to repair, replace or reimburse consumers for defective products. Testing is done by certified laboratories like Underwriters Laboratory (UL) and Factory Mutual (FM). Products marked as approved by UL, FM or another testing laboratory means that the product has passed the safety testing protocols established to assure the product is safe to use.



# PREVENTION

- Make sure all electrical outlets, switches and connections have covers so that non-insulated electrical wiring is not exposed.
- Use proper wattage bulbs in all lights. Use LED lights as they generate less heat and do not have an igniter that can fail and cause a fire.
- Use and place portable heaters per the manufacturer's instructions. Do not power electrical heaters through an extension cord.
- All extension cords are undamaged and properly sized for the equipment they power. Extension cords are not run under carpets, through doors or windows, or attached to building surfaces. Extension cords should not be used on a permanent basis.
- Keep the vents on equipment like TVs, microwaves and computer equipment clear.
- Unplug counter top appliances and other equipment chargers when they are not in use.
- Electrically powered devices and tools used in a wet area or outside should be protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) in the circuit, the outlet or the extension cord. Test GFCIs in outlets and breakers monthly and portable ones before each use.

## New York State Child Day Care Regulations 416.5 (c) (i)

Prohibits the use of portable electric heaters in day care areas.

Requires caps on electrical outlets.

For more information and resources visit:

[www.cseany.org/safety](http://www.cseany.org/safety)



Subscribe to our newsletter:

**THE SAFETY NET**  
CSEA

CSEA has been winning the fight for safe and healthy working conditions for over 100 years, yet there is more to be done. Hazards old and new- from Asbestos to Zika- remain a threat to workers every day. CSEA will not back down from the fight and nothing is more important than saving lives and keeping workers free from injury. Your help is needed now more than ever.

*The life you save could be YOUR OWN.*

**CSEA**  
Local 1000 AFSCME, AFL-CIO