

Outdoor Electrical Safety


Electricity is an essential part of our daily activities. Fires of an electrical origin are common and even fatal. It is important to use electricity safely on the outside of the home. There are several key points to remember while preparing for outdoor electricity.



Outdoor Electrical Products

To prevent moisture from entering, outdoor electrical products are equipped with heavily insulated cords and molded-on plugs.

Never leave electrical products unattended outdoors.




Avoid shock hazards. Electrical products not designed to be used outdoors can be destroyed or become a hazard.

Only keep outdoor appliances plugged in and turned on when in use.

Store products inside and away from water and excessive heat.

Inspect your outdoor products periodically for damage to cords, plugs, or wiring.


Do not use electrical products near water, or while wet.



Electrical Cords

When using extension cords outdoors, be sure it is marked "For Outdoor Use."

Leave electrical cords uncovered and avoid putting them where they can be damaged.



Outdoor cords are weather resistant. Medium-to-heavy gauge extension cords have connectors molded onto them to prevent moisture entering, and outer coatings are designed to withstand being dragged along the ground.

Only use extension cords temporarily. Prolonged use can cause overheating and fire.

Never modify an electrical cord.



Hot Tubs, Spas, and Pools

Keep outlets near hot tubs, spas, and pools covered and dry.

New outlet covers are available offering weather protection while a plug is inserted into the outlet.

Never handle electrical items, plugs, or outlets when wet.

If an electrical product falls into water, do not reach into the water for it.



Electrical Safety

Use properly rated light bulbs for fixtures.

Call a licensed electrician for any serious or reoccurring electrical issues.

Do not attempt to do electrical work without the proper training and licensing.

Keep outdoor outlets covered and dry between uses.