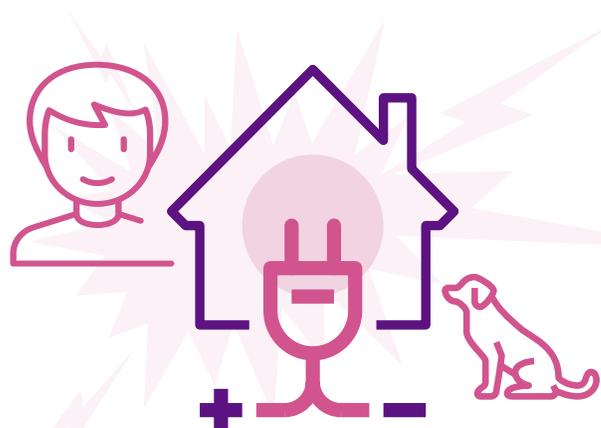




In the digital age, we have more gadgets than ever. The added shift to working from home means on average more devices are plugged in and running alongside home and kitchen appliances all day long. While extension cords might be giving us room to plug in our laptops, phones, kettles, fans, or portable heaters; overloading outlets could result in an electrical fire if used improperly. Here are some tips to prevent electrical fires from occurring in the home.

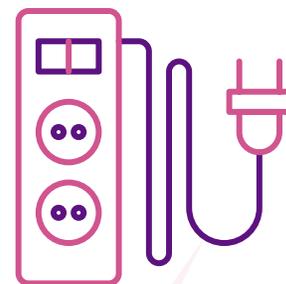


## Electrical Safety Around the Home

- Unplug electrical appliances when not in use
- Try not to overload outlets with too many cords or devices
- Use pet-resistant wires and cords to prevent chewing damage
- Install outlet covers to protect younger children from electric shocks
- Do not plug in devices with damaged power cords or attempt to fix them yourself
- Do not bring electronic devices such as laptops, mobile phones or any device containing lithium ion batteries to bed, especially when being charged
- Use electrical products certified by a recognized national testing laboratory and make sure to read and follow instruction manuals that come with your electrical products

## Extension cord safety

- Match grounded (3 prong) extension cords to grounded electrical devices
- Never break off the round grounding prong of an electrical plug or trim, cut, or alter the plug blades
- Extension cords are for temporary usage not a permanent source of electrical wiring
- Match your extension cord correct gauge/ capacity to the device you are connecting to it

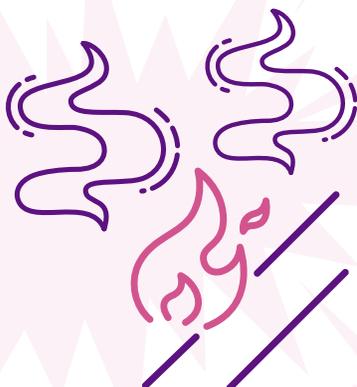
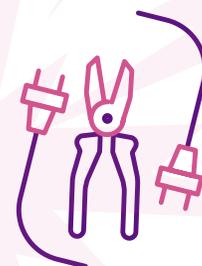
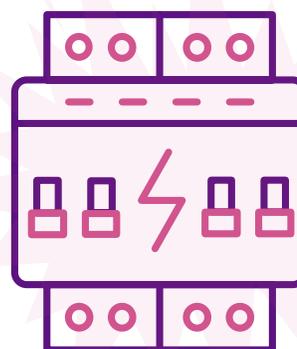


## Upgrading Electrical

Many older homes are only capable of handling a minimum number of amps and utilizing just a few circuits. Increased demand on electricity can overload a circuit.

Here are a few ways a licensed and bonded electrician can upgrade your home for your electrical needs and improve safety:

- Upgrade the electrical panel to bring more power from the utility poles
- Rewire the home with insulated wires
- Replace outlets for new surge-proof ones



## Warning Signs

Pay attention to the warning signs as they may indicate an issue with your home's electrical system. Look for visible signs of excessive wear or damage to the plug, sockets, protective sheathings or power cords. If you notice one or more of these signs, stop using the outlet or device and contact a licensed electrician immediately.

- Burn marks or discolouration of wall outlets
- A burning smell or rubbery odour from an appliance
- Flickering lights
- Recurring blown fuses or circuit breakers
- Electrical sparks or shock each time you plug in a device

For more safety tips and information, please refer to the [Electrical Safety Authority \(ESA\)](#), [Underwriters Laboratories of Canada \(ULC\)](#), and [Canadian Standards Association \(CSA\)](#).