

Common Safety Practices

- Keep electrical tools and appliances away from water
- Never use electrical tools or appliances if you are wet
- Immediately turn off any appliance that sputters, stalls or gives you the slightest shock-repair it before turning on
- Always disconnect an electric appliance or tool by pulling the plug, rather than the cord
- Unplug appliances when they are not in use
- Have professionals inspect your furnace or heat pump annually to make sure it is operating efficiently and correctly
- Avoid overloading outlets
- Look for the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) listing on appliances you buy
- Obey manufacturer's instructions
- Make sure you have a properly charged, Class "C" fire extinguisher available to extinguish any electrical fire
- Keep space heaters at least 3 feet away from any combustible material such as bedding, clothing, furniture and rugs
- If you use an electric heater, don't overload circuit
- Don't use a range or oven for additional heat; besides it being a safety hazard, it can be a source of possible toxic fumes
- Make sure light bulbs are the correct wattage for the fixture
- Install surge protection on sensitive electronic equipment to protect against power surges or lightning

Use power cords wisely:

- Do not run power cords across driveways or other areas where they might become worn or severed
- Do not string multiple cords together. Never use damaged cords
- Never place cords under rugs or through doorways where they could trip someone or be subjected to extreme wear
- When outdoors, use cords marked "**For Outdoor Use.**"
- Replace worn or frayed cords or plugs with loose prongs