

Fact Sheet Feuille de renseignements



Ministry of
Consumer and
Business Services

Ministère des Services
aux consommateurs
et aux entreprises



Summer Safely: **Tips on protecting yourself and your family through electrical safety**

Every year Ontario residents are killed and injured by the unsafe use of electricity. Unsafe use of electrical products and installation can cause shocks, fires, and other electrical hazards.

Awareness of potential risks associated with electricity is the first important step in eliminating risks. The second important step is learning what you can do to eliminate potential electrical hazards.

The Electrical Safety Authority (ESA) encourages you to follow these general electrical safety tips:

- Call a licensed electrical contractor or electrician if fuses repeatedly blow and circuits frequently trip.
- Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) are required for all circuits that supply outdoor appliances and tools, and/or are located in kitchens and bathrooms.
- Never overload electrical outlets by plugging in too many plugs
- Check that all electrical appliances are "approved" with recognized approval markings to ensure they meet the electrical safety requirements for Ontario
- If you are renovating your home don't forget to consider electrical safety needs in your plans.
 1. Contact your local utility to find out where electrical cables are buried before you do any major digging around your property.
 2. Always check for overhead electrical wires and/or utility lines.
 3. Use the service of a licensed electrician.



Extension cords

1. ...are rated for interior and exterior use – check before you buy one.
2. ...with ground pins (third prongs) should be left intact. Never remove the third prong.
3. ...that are frayed or show other damage should be replaced.
4. ...that are connected outside should be protected and kept dry.

Summer Safely:

Tips on protecting yourself and your family through electrical safety



Opening the cottage

When opening your summer vacation home, cottage or cabin check the following:

- Prior to turning on your main power switch—check all overhead lines that carry electricity to your property to ensure they have not been damaged over the winter months. Stay clear of damaged lines, and contact your Local Distributing Company for assistance.
- Check all wiring around your cottage that runs exterior equipment such as water pumps, etc. If wires are damaged remove the associated fuse or turn off the circuit breaker and contact a licensed electrical contractor or electrician to arrange for repairs.
- Ensure all appliances are turned off and clear of debris (i.e. base board heaters and stove tops) prior to energizing.
- Check to see that the water tank is full prior to energizing.
- If you have an electric furnace, ensure your chimney is clean prior to energizing (i.e. clear of bird's nests etc.).
- All branch circuits should be in the off position when the main switch is turned on. Circuits should be energized one at a time after the main switch has been turned on.



Portable generators

If you are using a portable standby generator:

1. Ensure all generator components bear the marking of a recognized approval label (*visit www.esa-safe.com for a list of recognized approval labels for Ontario.*)
2. Make sure the components of the generator include a transfer device or transfer panel and proper connection cords and receptacles.
3. Make certain all components are operating properly.
4. Ensure the unit has been grounded and bonded in accordance with the Ontario Electrical Safety Code.
5. Follow all manufacturer's directions and maintenance routines.
6. Use a licensed electrical contractor or electrician to install your unit.

Arrange for an application for inspection with the Electrical Safety Authority for any electrical installation you are planning.

For information on electrical safety, electrical installations or to request an electrical inspection please contact the Electrical Safety Authority's (ESA) Customer Service Centre at 1-877-421-2228 or visit their website at www.esainspection.com.

For information on matters of consumer interest, contact the Ministry of Consumer and Business Services, (416)326-8800 in Toronto or toll free 1-800-889-9768. or visit the website at www.gov.on.ca

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