

At Maritime Electric we want our customers to be safe and we developed this brochure with electrical safety information for both inside and outside of your home. All the tips in this brochure are meant to protect you from electrical hazards.

## INDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

### Home Wiring

- Hire a qualified electrician – where required – to perform electrical work in your home.
- Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets where required as they sense electrical troubles and quickly turn off your electricity before you or your family can be injured.

### Breakers and Fuses

- If a breaker trips frequently the circuit may be overloaded or the breaker damaged. Call an electrician to check for potential problems.
- If a fuse blows, turn off all appliances and lights on the circuit before changing the fuse.
- Only replace blown fuses with a fuse with the correct rating.
- The rating should be listed on the front of the fuse and clearly marked on the fuse box.
- Label any disconnected circuits so that someone else does not accidentally reconnect your electricity.
- Contact a qualified-licensed electrician if fuses or breakers fail or trip.



### Lighting

- Ensure you have the correct wattage bulb in the socket. The wattage rating is noted on the appliance and socket.
- Many types of light bulbs generate heat. Make sure lighting is kept away from flammable material (i.e. drapes).

### Plugs, Cords and Extension Cords

Always inspect any electrical cord that you use, both inside and outside, of your home. Cords are rated for indoor and outdoor use. It is important to ensure the correct cord.



- Always unplug a cord by pulling on the plug and not the cord. Pulling by the cord may cause the cord to become frayed and weakened.
- Don't overload wall sockets or electrical power bars.
- Do not remove or bypass the third prong on a plug. It's there because it is required for safety reasons.
- Use an extension cord that is properly rated for the load and only use it temporarily.
- When buying an extension cord ensure it is CSA (Canadian Standards Association) or UL (Underwriters Laboratories) approved.
- Make sure portable extension cords are designed to deliver sufficient wattage for the tool or appliance being used.
- Keep your extension cords away from water.
- Do not use worn extension cords as they may cause shocks and fires.
- Do not run cords under your carpeting – it can cause harm to the cord's wires and their protective coating and may result in a fire.

### Appliances and Equipment

Always inspect any electrical cord that you use, both inside and outside, of your home. Cords are rated for indoor and outdoor use. It is important to ensure the correct cord.



- Ensure appliances do not get wet. Water and electricity do not mix.
- Unplug appliances before moving, cleaning or repairing them.
- Unplug your toaster before recovering a wedged piece of toast.
- Keep electrical appliances away from sink and bath water.
- Turn off heating and cooking appliances before leaving home.
- Clean completely around electronic appliances to ensure the area is clean, avoiding a build up (i.e. lint behind the dryer, dust and dirt on refrigerator coils) that could cause a fire if heated.
- Electronic items that have become wet should be thoroughly dried out and inspected by a qualified person prior to re-use.

### Power Tools

- Unplug power tools when you are not using them.
- Do not operate around water or stand on a damp floor when using power tools.
- Be sure to use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) for all your electrical outdoor power tools.
- Do not use power tools that have frayed or worn cords. This can result in an electrical shock.
- If using a wind up style extension device ensure the cord is fully removed from the unit to avoid overheating.

## OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

When working outdoors it is **always** important to watch out for nearby power lines. Some outdoor work such as using a ladder, pruning trees, satellite dish installment and working on the roof may bring you too close to power lines. See the table below for safe working distances from power lines.

### Minimum Safe Distance from Power Lines for Work Sites<sup>1</sup>

Nominal Phase to Phase Voltage of Live Power Line	Minimal Distance
Up to 750 volts	0.9 metres ( 3 feet)
751 – 100,000 volts	3.6 metres (12 feet)
100,001 – 250,000 volts	5.2 metres (17 feet)

<sup>1</sup>PEI Health and Safety Regulations

Do not attempt to measure the distance to lines. Estimate from the ground and if unsure about voltage or distance call Maritime Electric.

### Lighting your Property

- Ensure temporary outdoor lighting, such as holiday or seasonal lighting, is connected to a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).
- If using a ladder stay away from overhead wires.
- Fall-related injuries often increase while decorating for holidays. Be sure of good footing and avoid uneven surfaces if using a ladder.

### Installing Satellites or Similar Objects

Maintain a safe distance from power lines. If power lines are in proximity contact Maritime Electric to determine line voltage and safe limits of approach.



### Lawn & Garden Tools and Projects

- Not sure whether you have an underground electrical service? Contact Maritime Electric before you dig, trench or till on your property.

- Check for overhead power lines before setting up a ladder.
- Only use your electric lawn-mower on dry grass. Do not mow the lawn when it is raining.
- Use garden tools and appliances that have three prong plugs.
- Inspect your garden tools' electrical cords for frayed insulation. If frayed, repair before using.
- Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets for outdoor plugs.



### Tree Planting and Cutting

- Your tree will become a hazard if it grows into power lines. Always plant your trees away from power lines.
- Cutting a tree that could fall into a power line can be very dangerous or even deadly. Contact Maritime Electric if limbs on a tree you wish to cut are in proximity to power lines.
- Do not try to move a tree that has fallen into a power line. Stay clear. Contact Maritime Electric for assistance.

### Contact Us

If you are interested in having a Maritime Electric employee deliver an Electrical Safety in the Workplace presentation please contact us.

All our energy.  
All the time.



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## Electrical Safety at Home

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