



Electrical Safety  
at Home

## eSafetyLine

### **Kitchen and Bathroom Safety**

The kitchen is often the center of peoples' homes; meals are made and served here and families usually gather in the kitchen. The bathroom is also a center of activity for most families. These two rooms have other things in common- many appliances and lots of flowing water. This can be a very dangerous combination when looking at electrical safety.

In both these rooms, electrical outlets and switches should be looked at very closely. If children are present all unused outlets need to have safety covers on them. The kitchen and bathroom are rooms where children are expected to be found and they can suffer serious burns and shock if they insert toys, wet fingers or silverware into an outlet. It is also important that all electrical plugs fit snugly into all outlets, if not these outlets should be replaced. Plugs that are loose-fitting can become overheated and cause a fire. A connection that is loose can't carry much current without heating up. It's also important that all outlets be covered with faceplates. Exposed wiring is a shock hazard and can be very tempting to curious children.

In any kitchen there will be many appliances of various sizes. Counter top appliances like coffee makers, radios, blenders, etc. should always be located away from the sink and unplugged when not in use. Unused appliances that are left plugged in can cause an unnecessary risk of fire. Mixing electricity and water is a recipe for disaster that can result in electrical shocks and possible fires. By being on a counter and near the sink, these appliances could be accidentally knocked into the sink or sprayed with water. This is why it can be very helpful to have GFCI-protected outlets installed along a kitchen counter. It's important to keep the spaces around large appliances like stove tops, oven and refrigerators

clear so that the wiring and motors that run them can stay cool and not cause an electrical fire.

The electrical hazards of a bathroom are very similar to those in the kitchen- a dangerous combination of electricity and water. Because of this it is important to keep bathroom appliances unplugged when not in use and as far away from water as possible. An appliance that is plugged in, even when turned off, could cause a shock hazard if they fall into water. All appliances should be in good working order; there shouldn't be any smoke, sparks or strange noises. Any of these could be a sign of electrical damage which increases the possibility of a shock or fire hazard.

### **Discussion Questions**

Why are the kitchen and bathroom at such high risk for an electrical accident?

Why is it necessary to unplug appliances when not in use?

# MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

TOPICS ADDRESSED: \_\_\_\_\_

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## EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

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EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: \_\_\_\_\_

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ACTION TAKEN: \_\_\_\_\_

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Supervisor's Signature

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Safety Coordinator's Signature

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Date