



Electrical Safety
at Home

eSafetyLine

Living and Bedroom Safety

Bedrooms, living rooms and family rooms should be soft and cozy places that your family enjoys spending time in. This can complicate electrical safety in these rooms. Soft materials like curtains, drapes, carpets and furniture can trap heat around outlets, wiring and appliances increasing the possibility of fire.

These are also rooms that are most likely to have portable electric heaters. Although they increase the comfort level, the comfort comes with a price. Any portable heater used in your home should be tested by a nationally-recognized testing laboratory (NRTL) like UL, ETL or CSA. Heaters that have been tested will have a higher degree of assurances that they will have the necessary safety features. Heaters of this type should never be placed less than 3 feet from combustible materials like drapes or newspapers. Enough heat can be produced by those heaters to ignite nearby materials.

You are likely to find a wide variety of small appliances like lamps, radios, TVs, DVD players, computers and video gaming systems in these rooms. It is important that all cords be periodically checked for any damage like being cracked or frayed. Any damaged cords should be replaced because damaged cords could have exposed live wires that could be a shock or fire hazard. Electric cords should never be put in a position where they could be stepped on or have furniture or rugs placed on them. Cords that are stepped on or bear the weight of furniture can end up with crushed and damaged insulation or broken wire strands.

Some people don't like the look of electric cords lying on the floor, so they bunch them up and fasten them together. Although this may be better, it prevents

heat from escaping from loose cords that can melt or weaken the cords' insulation. All entertainment equipment needs to be placed so that air can move freely around it. When air flow is blocked it can lead to overheating and a possible fire hazard. It is important to refer to the owner's manual for placement assistance.

In bedrooms, many still use electric blankets during the colder months. If this is the case at your home be sure that the blankets are in good condition. The blanket should be checked for any cracks or breaks in the wiring, plugs and connections. The blanket itself should be looked at carefully for any dark, charred or frayed spots on either side of the blanket. If ANY damage is found the blanket should be replaced to avoid a potential fire. When the blanket is in place on a bed it should not be covered with anything when in use and laid out flat on the bed. A blanket that is covered has the possibility of overheating as does folding or tucking it in. Folding and tucking an electric blanket in also increases the chances of pinching and damaging the wires that heat the blanket.

Discussion Questions

Why shouldn't electric cords be put in high traffic paths in your home?

Why should air be able to flow around cords and appliances?

MEETING / TRAINING ATTENDANCE ROSTER

COMPANY: _____

_____ SAFETY MEETING

JOB/DEPT: _____

_____ SAFETY TRAINING

DATE: ___/___/___

TIME: _____

TOPICS ADDRESSED: _____

EMPLOYEE'S SIGNATURES

_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

EMPLOYEE SUGGESTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: _____

ACTION TAKEN: _____

Supervisor's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date

Safety Coordinator's Signature

_____/_____/_____
Date