

Home Electrical Safety

This playbook outlines the steps to identify and rectify potential electrical hazards in your home. It serves as a guide to educate homeowners on how to maintain a safe environment by preventing electrical risks.

Step 1: **Inspection**

Carefully inspect all electrical cords, outlets, and appliances in your home for any signs of damage, such as frayed wires, cracks, or burns. Ensure that all cords are not pinched by furniture and that they are not running under carpets where they can be damaged.

Step 2: **Testing**

Test all GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) outlets by pressing the 'Test' button and making sure the power cuts off. This step is crucial for avoiding electrical shocks especially in areas with high moisture like bathrooms and kitchens.

Step 3: **Childproofing**

Install tamper-resistant (TR) receptacles or use safety covers on all unused electrical outlets to protect children from electrical injuries. Make sure cords are out of reach of children to prevent them from pulling on them or putting them in their mouth.

Step 4: **Load Management**

Check that all appliances are plugged into appropriate outlets without relying on extension cords or power strips, as these can be

overloaded and cause fires. Ensure that one outlet is not powering too many high-energy appliances simultaneously.

Step 5: Proper Storage

Store flammable materials away from electrical appliances to prevent fires. Make sure ventilation around electronics is sufficient to prevent overheating.

Step 6: Surge Protection

Use surge protectors to guard sensitive electronics against power spikes. This is particularly important for computers, televisions, and other costly equipment that can be damaged by electrical surges.

Step 7: Professional Audit

Hire a licensed electrician to perform a thorough electrical audit of your home. They can identify hidden risks and provide solutions for any issues that are outside of typical homeowner capabilities to fix.

General Notes

Emergency Numbers

Keep a list of emergency contact numbers, including a reliable licensed electrician and your local emergency services, in an easily accessible place.

Routine Checks

Perform these safety checks regularly, such as bi-annually, to ensure ongoing safety as electrical installations can deteriorate over time and with use.

