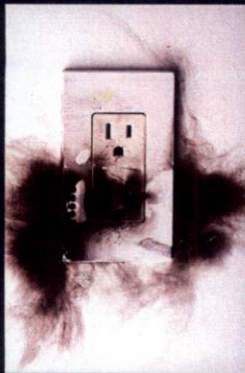




# Electrical Safety Tips

You may need to consult with an electrician or your facilities department if:

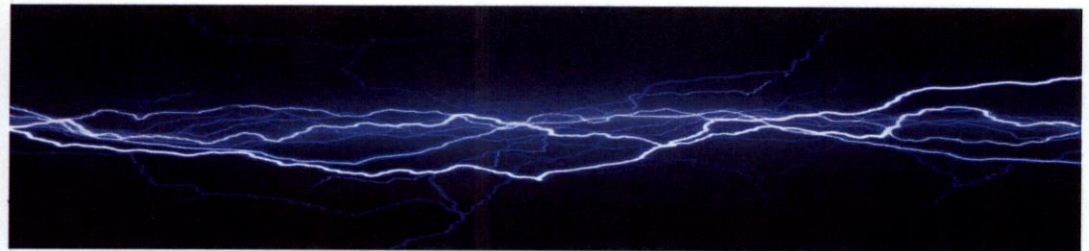
- You experience frequent issues with blown fuses or tripping circuit breakers.
- Electrical appliances cause a tingling sensation when touched.
- You have a warm wall receptacle outlet.
- A wall receptacle outlet appears discolored.
- You smell a burning or rubbery odor coming from your appliances.
- You encounter flickering or dimming lights.
- There are sparks or flames emitting from a wall receptacle outlet.



*For questions, please contact:*

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For most of us, the use of electricity is something that we take for granted. When you walk into a room, you flip a switch, and the lights come on. Making coffee is as simple as plugging the device into a wall and pushing a button. We all use electricity to charge our phones, tablets, personal computers, and other electronics. It has become so available and convenient that many of us forget the associated dangers.

Here are some tips to keep electrical safety in mind at school sites and in the classroom:

- Any major appliance, such as a refrigerator, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, etc., should always be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Avoid plugging such devices into extension cords or plug strips (i.e.: surge protectors).
- Avoid plugging heat-producing appliances, such as coffee makers, toasters, toaster ovens, microwaves, etc., into the same wall receptacle outlet.
- Ensure that electrical cords do not run across doorways or under carpets. Always use a rigid cord tunnel or cover to protect the electrical cord from damage. Extension cords should only be used as a temporary solution and should not be substituted for additional wall receptacle outlets.
- Avoid the use of low-quality extension cords or outlet splitters.
- When replacing light bulbs, always use bulbs that match the recommended wattage of the lamp or fixture.
- Ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) reduce the risk of shock by shutting off an electrical circuit when there is a shock hazard. Make sure that any outlet within six feet of a water source is GFCI-protected.
- Instead of using space heaters, consider contacting your building facilities department to have indoor temperatures adjusted. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that space heaters account for 2,400 residential fires, resulting in 80 deaths, 240 injuries, and \$48.2 million dollars in property losses per year.

