

Electrical Safety: Think Outside the Home

Electrical hazards are not only present indoors, but can also occur outside. Follow this guide to help prevent common outdoor electrical hazards.

POWER LINES

Before planting trees near a power line, conduct research or speak with a professional to ensure there's enough space for it to grow. If you suspect that a tree is too close to power lines, report it to your local utility.



Always keep yourself and equipment at least **10 Ft.** away from power lines. Electricity can jump to nearby objects!

Power lines are also underground. Call **811** before you dig.

OUTDOOR OUTLETS

Have **Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)** installed, which automatically cut power when a plugged in item comes in contact with water or begins to "leak" electricity.




Install **weatherproof** boxes or covers on outdoor outlets.

GENERATORS

Between 1999 and 2012, **79%** of the 931 **carbon monoxide (CO) fatalities** were associated with generators. 

24% of CO fatalities involving generators occurred when used inside an attached **garage or shed**. 

Make sure your home is properly equipped with carbon monoxide alarms and **test them monthly**. 


When in use, position generators outside and **away from doors, windows and vents**. 

Do not plug generators directly into a home outlet without a transfer switch to **prevent backfeed** which could harm utility line workers making repairs.


Make sure your generator is **properly grounded**. 


EXTENSION CORDS

 Extension cords provide a **temporary solution** and should not be used long-term or permanently.


Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors. Outdoor cords will be labeled **"For Outdoor Use"** and are often orange. 

 **Never attempt to extend the length** of an extension cord by connecting it to another extension cord.

Be sure the **amperage rating** for the extension cord is higher than amperage of the electrical product being used. 

Only use extension cords that have the mark of a **nationally recognized testing laboratory** such as UL, Intertek or CSA. 

ADDITIONAL TIPS

Store fuel in **approved containers** and away from any **potential heat sources**, like a furnace, space heater, or even direct sunlight. 

When storing electrical products in your garage, **use containers** to prevent exposure to water or damage caused by animals. 

Have an electrician **inspect** your swimming pool, spa or hot tub to ensure it complies with applicable local codes, such as the **National Electrical Code®**. 