

Step 4: Practice Electrical Safety

Never use electrical appliances near water or close to faucets or water pipes. Do not use any electrical appliances, including hair dryers and stereos, while bathing or washing dishes. If an appliance falls into water, make sure it is unplugged before you retrieve it.

Check all of your appliances for worn plugs or cracked wires. Do not attempt to make your own repairs unless you are an expert. Electrical repairs are best left to the professionals. Unplug appliances when they are not in use.

Make sure you're not using oversized fuses or circuit breakers anywhere in your house; doing so will not allow the circuit to hold more or enhance the performance of appliances. In fact, this may actually cause overheating and lowered efficiency.

Take care of cords and electrical sockets. Always remove extension cords by the plug, not by tugging on the cord. Never break the ground prong of a three-prong plug to make it fit into a two-prong outlet. Instead, use an adapter. Cover any unused outlets to keep your family safe. Great work! You and your family are better prepared and more knowledgeable about fire prevention.