

## **Taskforce Helpful Hints – Simple ways to prevent Electrical troubles during winter**

Despite the temperature that can make ice cream lovers not want to eat ice cream at all, there's still possibility of a fire during winter. There will be days when all electrical sockets are filled because everyone is forced to stay at home to watch TV, to play with Xbox, to browse the internet and to stay busy with anything that is electronic. The heating system will be faced with more work too. These should motivate you to check your home's electrical system, not only to avoid getting interrupted in the middle of a movie, but also to avoid fire hazards.

You have to make sure that electrical wirings and devices are in good working condition before winter when they'll be used more often. Calling a licensed electrician to examine to handle maintenance and repair is the wisest thing to do. Many people only think about calling electricians when a predicament arises and they always end up spending a large fortune. In order to have peace of mind, find a reliable electrician and schedule a thorough inspection regularly. And while he's not around, follow these simple ways to prevent electrical troubles during winter:

### **Replace Old Wirings and Circuits**

If this house that you're living in was built decades ago, it could also mean that the wirings and circuits are also decades old. Deteriorating wirings can cause fire hazard if the conductor gets in contact with another conductor. Inspect all the wires (interior and exterior) to be assured of your family's safety. Also, the electrical circuits that had been installed a decade or two ago may not be able to handle the huge demand for electricity of today because households don't have as many electronic devices and appliances before. Have an electrician come over to check on this matter.

### **Extra Care with Extension Cords**

Winter is the time of the year when people look at extension cords like they're some kind of a treasure. They allow people to plug in various electronic devices wherever they want to cuddle up. However, these should be use only temporarily. If you need a power source on a particular place all the time, call a licensed electrician to install an electrical socket. Make sure that the extension cord is used on the right environment and is plugged with the right voltage too. Don't put it on door corners where it can be damaged by the opening and closing of the door. Also, look for damages before plugging it on the power source. If one is spotted, just discard it.

Home heating systems, fireplaces and chimneys produce carbon monoxide which is a colorless, odorless and potentially dangerous gas. It can cause vomiting, hallucinations and permanent brain damage so make sure that all carbon monoxide detectors are functional.

**Check Product Safety**

Before any electrical equipment is sold in the market it is scrutinized by certain government agencies to ensure that they do not bring hazard to consumers. Look for approval marks from recognized agencies before buying anything that has an electrical component. Buy only from certified sellers in order to avoid counterfeit products.

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