



Electrical Safety at Home

**All our energy.
All the time.**

MARITIME 
ELECTRIC
A FORTIS COMPANY

At Maritime Electric, we want our customers to be safe. This brochure has electrical safety information for both inside and outside your home. Each tip is meant to protect you from electrical hazards.

INDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

Home Wiring

- Always hire a qualified electrician to perform electrical work in your home.
- Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets where required. GFCI outlets sense electrical troubles and quickly turn off your electricity to protect you and your family from electrical hazards.

Breakers and Fuses

- Always hire a qualified electrician to complete work on your electrical panel.
- If a breaker trips frequently, it may be damaged or overloaded. Call an electrician to check for potential problems.
- If a fuse blows, turn off all appliances and lights on the circuit before changing the fuse.
- Only replace blown fuses with a fuse that has the correct rating. The rating should be listed on the front of the fuse and clearly marked on the fuse box.
- Label any disconnected circuits so that someone else does not accidentally reconnect your electricity.



Indoor Lighting

- Ensure you have the correct wattage bulb in the socket. The wattage rating is noted on the appliance and socket.
- Many types of light bulbs generate heat. Make sure lighting is kept away from flammable material (i.e. drapes).

Plugs, Cords and Extension Cords

Always inspect any electrical cord that you use inside and outside of your home. Cords are rated for indoor and outdoor use. It is important to use the correct cord.



- Always unplug a cord by pulling on the plug and not the cord. Pulling by the cord may cause the cord to become frayed and weakened.
- Do not overload wall sockets or electrical power bars.
- Do not remove or bypass the third prong (ground) on a plug. It is required for safety reasons.
- Only use extension cords that are properly rated for the required electrical load and only use it temporarily.
- When buying an extension cord or power bar, ensure it is CSA (Canadian Standards Association) or UL (Underwriters Laboratories) approved.
- Keep extension cords away from water or damp locations.
- Never use damaged extension cords as they may cause electrical shocks or fires.
- Never run electrical cords under your carpeting – it can cause harm to the cord's wires and may result in a fire.

Appliances and Equipment

- Ensure appliances do not get wet. Water and electricity do not mix.
- Keep electrical appliances away from sinks, bathtubs, showers and other wet locations.
- Electronic items that have come into contact with water should be thoroughly dried out and inspected by a qualified person before using them again.
- Unplug appliances before moving, cleaning or repairing them.
- Always unplug your toaster before recovering a wedged piece of food.
- Turn off heating and cooking appliances before leaving your home.
- Clean your appliances regularly to prevent a build up of flammable material (i.e. lint behind the dryer or dust and dirt on refrigerator coils).



Power Tools

- Unplug power tools when you are not using them.
- Do not stand in a damp area when using power tools and do not operate them near water.
- Be sure to use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) for all your electrical outdoor power tools.
- Do not use power tools that have frayed or worn cords. This can result in an electrical shock.
- If using a wind up style extension device, ensure the cord is fully removed from the unit to avoid overheating.

OUTDOOR ELECTRICAL SAFETY TIPS

When working outdoors, it is **always** important to watch out for nearby power lines. Some outdoor work, such as using a ladder, pruning trees, satellite dish installation and working on the roof, may be dangerous if you are too close to power lines. See the table below for safe working distances from power lines.

Minimum Safe Distance from Power Lines for Work Sites¹

Nominal Phase to Phase Voltage of Live Power Line	Minimal Distance
Up to 750 volts	0.9 metres (3 feet)
751 – 100,000 volts	3.6 metres (12 feet)
100,001 – 250,000 volts	5.2 metres (17 feet)

¹ PEI Health and Safety Regulations

Never attempt to measure the distance to power lines. Estimate from the ground and if you're unsure about voltage or distance, call Maritime Electric.

Outdoor Lighting

- Ensure temporary outdoor lighting, such as holiday or seasonal lighting, is connected to a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlet.
- If using a ladder, stay away from overhead wires.
- Fall-related injuries often increase while decorating for holidays. Always maintain proper footing and avoid uneven or unstable surfaces if using a ladder.

Installing Satellites Dishes or Rooftop Equipment

Maintain a safe distance from power lines. If power lines are in proximity, contact Maritime Electric to determine line voltage and safe limits of approach.

Lawn & Garden Projects

- If you are not sure whether you have underground electrical service, contact Maritime Electric before you dig, trench or till on your property.

- Always check for overhead power lines before setting up a ladder.
- Only use your electric lawnmower on dry grass. Never mow the lawn when it is raining.
- Use garden tools and appliances that have three prong plugs.



- Inspect your garden tools' electrical cords for frayed insulation. If frayed, repair before using.
- Use Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) outlets for outdoor plugs.

Tree Planting and Cutting

- Your tree will become a hazard if it grows into power lines. Always plant your trees away from power lines.
- Cutting a tree that could fall into a power line can be very dangerous or even deadly. Contact Maritime Electric if the limbs on a tree you wish to cut are in proximity to power lines.
- Never try to move a tree that has fallen into a power line. Stay clear. Contact Maritime Electric for assistance.

Contact Us

If you are interested in having a Maritime Electric employee deliver an Electrical Safety in the Workplace presentation please contact us.

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