

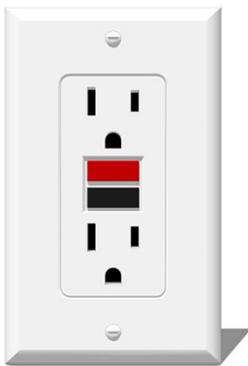
Electrical Safety for Telecommuters

Electrical fires in the home claim the lives of 485 Americans each year and injure over 3,000 more. For telecommuters using city equipment at home, here are a few tips to ensure you are working in an electrically safe environment.



Overloading

Never overload electrical outlets and circuits. Overloaded electrical outlets, or circuits that supply power to several outlets, is a major cause of residential fires. Overloaded outlets and circuits carry too much electricity, which generates heat in undetectable amounts. The heat causes wear on the internal wiring system and can ignite a fire.



Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI)

Plug electrical devices into GFCIs whenever possible. GFCIs are electrical safety devices that trip electrical circuits when they detect ground faults or leakage currents. A person who becomes part of a path for leakage current will be severely shocked or electrocuted. These outlets prevent deadly shock by quickly shutting off power to the circuit if the electricity flowing into the circuit differs by even a slight amount from that returning.



Electrical Cords

Check cords regularly and replace any damaged or frayed cords immediately. Do not wrap the cord in PVC tape, this is not a permanent solution to the problem. The electric cord contains a live wire that is securely insulated. If a cord becomes frayed, the live wire can be exposed. This is dangerous and can leave you vulnerable electric fires or shock.



Three Prong Plugs

Do not remove ground plugs or use two prong adaptors improperly. The grounding system is a safety feature that helps protect you against electrical shock, which can range from startling to painful to deadly.

Adapter Properly Installed – Screwed into cover plate

