

# Safety is everyone's responsibility.

## Safer Use of Household Appliances

Bread makers and pasta machines. Juicers. Coffee grinders. Espresso machines. DVD players.

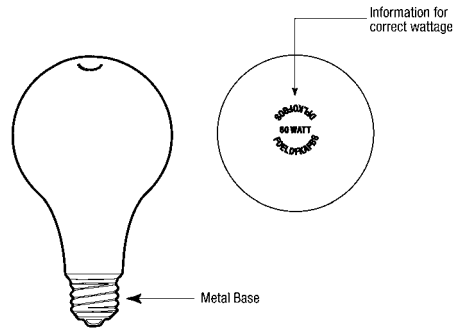
The last decade has seen an explosion of new and diverse appliances arrive in stores and, eventually, in our homes.

With our households filling with these sophisticated devices, *it's more important than ever* to practice electrical safety.

Misusing an appliance could not only break the product, more importantly it could cause an electric shock or start a fire. To reduce this risk, read and follow the manufacturer's instructions and follow these basic rules:

- Buy electrical appliances that have been listed by UL – look for the UL Mark.
- Don't overload your household's electrical circuits. Never plug electrical appliances that, when their wattage usage is combined, draw more than 1,500 watts from the same circuit. You can find a product's wattage marking on the manufacturer's nameplate or in the use and care booklet. Don't forget to add up the wattage for all appliances that will be used simultaneously on a single circuit. Check your circuit breaker/fuse box to determine which outlets are on the same circuit. Remember, there are usually several outlets on the same circuit.
- Never use an electric appliance or product for anything other than its intended use. Hair dryers aren't meant to thaw frozen pipes, dry clothing, or warm bedding. Ovens aren't intended to heat your home. Follow the manufacturer's instructions for the proper use of a product.
- Unplug all countertop appliances when not in use. This includes mixers, toasters, coffee makers, hair dryers, curling irons, and shavers. When plugged into an outlet, all appliances will have dangerous electrical voltages inside of them – *even when they're turned off*.
- Never use or attempt to repair a damaged appliance. Cracked casings and frayed or worn cords could lead to electric shock or start a fire. Consult a qualified technician.
- Keep appliances and their cords away from water. If an appliance falls into the water, don't reach in to retrieve it until you've unplugged the appliance. Don't use the product again until you've had it inspected and repaired by a qualified technician. Water conducts electricity, so water-damaged products can give you a lethal electric shock.
- Never use appliances – including lamps, radios, televisions and telephones – near pools, spas, hot tubs, sinks, bathtubs or showers.
- Keep cords away from hot or wet surfaces. Also, keep cords out of the reach of children. If cords drape over counters or shelves, children can grab them and pull the product on top of them.
- When replacing a light bulb in a portable lamp or fixture, make sure that the replacement bulb is of equal or lower wattage than that recommended by the manufacturer. "Overlamping," the practice of using a light bulb that is of higher wattage than recommended by the manufacturer, can cause the lamp or fixture to overheat and start a fire.





- When replacing a light bulb, read and follow all manufacturer warnings and instructions found on the light bulb packaging. Turn off the switch or unplug the lamp before starting. Never touch the metal base of the bulb while screwing and unscrewing the bulb – it could give off an electric shock.
- Never use a telephone during a lightning storm. Never use your telephone to report a gas leak in your home. If the gas concentration is high enough, a spark inside the phone could cause an explosion. Go to a neighbor's home that is unaffected by the leak.

For more consumer safety information, visit <http://www.ul.com/regulators/pubedu.html>

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