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## Electrical Safety

Electricity greatly improves our lives. It provides both indoor and outdoor lighting. Electricity also powers our heating and air conditioning systems, and powers our modern technology. Without electricity the modern world that we live in would be unrecognizable. Unfortunately, electricity is also called the silent killer. You cannot hear it, see it, taste it, or smell it. This is partly why it is so dangerous. Electricity is always looking for the path of least resistance so that it can flow uninhibited. Electricity will follow the path of least resistance to ground. Electricity becomes dangerous when you become the path of least resistance, because the closest path to ground may be through you!

If you are shocked by electricity you may feel your muscles contract. Your lungs may be unable to inhale air. Your heart may be stopped due to the electricity. Currents greater than 75 mA can cause ventricular fibrillation and death.



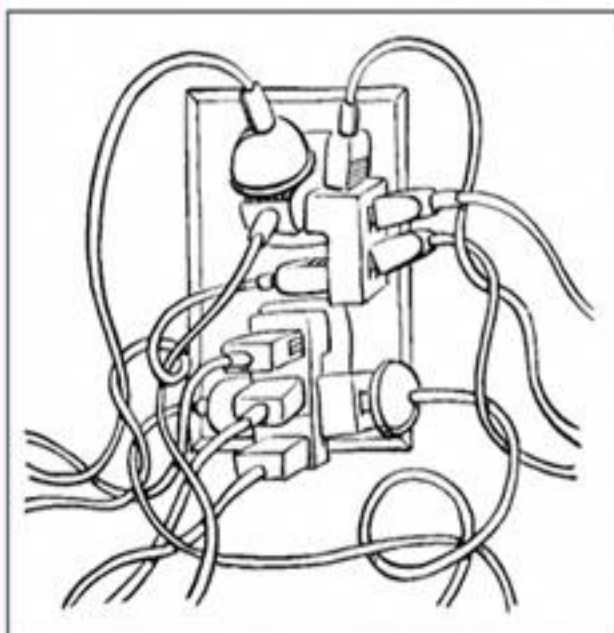
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Follow these electrical safety tips to stay safe!

- Visually inspect electrical hand tools and extension cords before each use
- Always wear the necessary PPE and use grounded or double-insulated tools
- Never handle an electrical tool by its power cord
- Never yank cords to disconnect them. Reach down and pull the plug from the receptacle.
- Don't try to repair electrical cords or tools
- In damp or wet areas, only use tools protected by a ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI)
- Never operate electrical tools or equipment while standing in water
- Use 3-prong receptacles
- Never break off the ground to fit an underground outlet
- Keep equipment and activities at a safe power distance (at least 10 feet) when working around lines
- When working around powerlines, make sure all tools, PPE, and ladders are non-conductive
- Never touch a fallen overhead powerline



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