

Hazard: Electrical Hazards

Identity of Hazard(s): This includes the power supply; the type, location, and condition of the wiring; and the number and conditions of wall outlets or ceiling fixtures required by the local code within the home.¹

Primary Health Outcome(s): Shock, burns²

Health Alert! When electricity passes through the human body, it causes shock to the nervous system. The shock effect ranges from mild tingling sensations to disruption of the normal regular contractions of the heart or respiratory muscles, causing death. About half of electrical accidents in the home result in burns as well as shock.²

Gain Control: Actions You Can Take³

- Never mix water and electricity.
 - Pay attention to what your appliances are telling you. When an appliance repeatedly trips a circuit breaker, blows a fuse, or gives you shocks, it's not just a coincidence – these are signs that something is wrong.
 - Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI). In new construction homes, GFCI receptacles are a requirement anywhere that electrical outlets and water will be in close proximity to one another.
 - Protect kids with outlet covers
 - Replace missing or broken wall plates
 - Match the light bulb's wattage rating to the lamp
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Local Resources for Detroit Residents:

- Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental (BSEED) Department: (313) 628-2451
 - The Property Maintenance Division (for renters only)
- Detroit Planning and Development Department (CDBG Home Repair Program): (313) 224-3461
 - Must be homeowner with homeowners insurance and be current on property taxes

¹http://www.cdc.gov/nceh/publications/books/housing/cha11.htm#Common_Electrical_Violations

²http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/documents/huddoc?id=operating_guidance_hhrs_v1.pdf

³<http://www.cableorganizer.com/articles/preventing-home-electrical-hazards.html>