

Home Safety Guide



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Electrical Safety

Flipping a light switch. Plugging in a coffemaker. Charging a laptop computer. These are second nature for most of us. Electricity makes our lives easier. However, we need to be cautious and keep safety in mind.



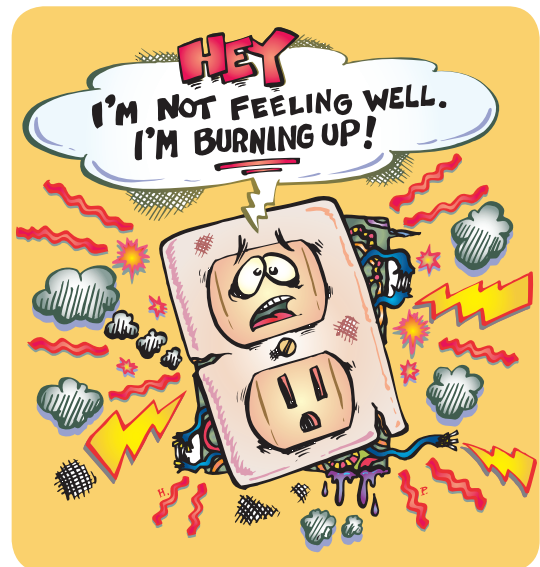
SAFETY TIPS

- » Have all electrical work done by a qualified electrician.
- » When you are buying or remodeling a home, have it inspected by a qualified electrician.
- » Only plug one heat-producing appliance (such as a coffee maker, toaster, space heater, etc.) into a receptacle outlet at a time.
- » Major appliances (refrigerators, dryers, washers, stoves, air conditioners, etc.) should be plugged directly into a wall receptacle outlet. Extension cords and plug strips should not be used.
- » Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) are a kind of circuit breaker that shuts off electricity when a dangerous condition occurs. Consider having them installed in your home. Use a qualified electrician.
- » Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) to reduce the risk of shock. GFCIs shut off an electrical circuit when it becomes a shock hazard. They should be installed inside the home in bathrooms, kitchens, garages and basements. All outdoor receptacles should be GFCI protected.
- » Test AFCIs and GFCIs once a month to make sure they are working properly.
- » Check electrical cords to make sure they are not running across doorways or under carpets. Extension cords are intended for temporary use. Have a qualified electrician add more receptacle outlets so you don't have to use extension cords.
- » Use light bulbs that match the recommended wattage on the lamp or fixture. There should be a sticker that indicates the maximum wattage light bulb to use.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Call a qualified electrician or your landlord if you have:

- Frequent problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers
- A tingling feeling when you touch an electrical appliance
- Discolored or warm wall outlets
- A burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance
- Flickering or dimming lights
- Sparks from an outlet



www.nfpa.org/education

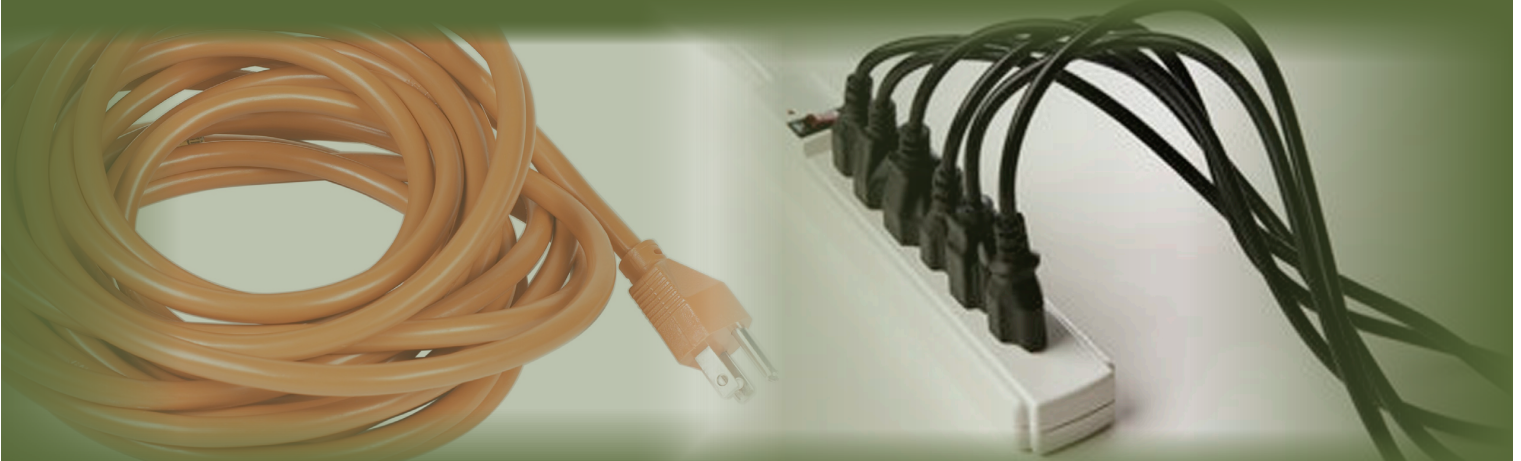


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Power Up With Safety

Extension Cords & Power Strips

Overloaded extension cords and power strips can present a serious fire hazard. There are about 2,000 residential fires each year associated with electric cords or plugs, killing 60 people. The fires usually start because of short circuits, too many products plugged into the cord, and damaged cords.



Empower yourself with these electrical safety tips:

- Use extension cords only when necessary and only on a temporary basis. Don't overload a cord or power strip.
- Use only three-wire extension cords for appliances with three-prong plugs.
- Replace cracked or worn cords.
- When using outdoor tools and appliances, use only extension cords labeled for outdoor use.
- Do not use counterfeit goods. Look for a certification label from an independent testing lab on the package and on the product.

MAY is National Electrical Safety Month



**U.S. Consumer Product
Safety Commission**

CPSC hotline: 800-638-2772
and 800-638-8270 (TTY)



Sign up to receive free NSN
safety alerts and posters at

cpsc.gov

Cooking Safety

Cooking brings family and friends together, provides an outlet for creativity and can be relaxing. But did you know that cooking fires are the number one cause of home fires and home injuries? By following a few safety tips you can prevent these fires.

“COOK WITH CAUTION”

- » Be on alert! If you are sleepy or have consumed alcohol don't use the stove or stovetop.
- » Stay in the kitchen while you are frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- » If you are simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you are cooking.
- » Keep anything that can catch fire — oven mitts, wooden utensils, food packaging, towels or curtains — away from your stovetop.

If you have a small (grease) cooking fire and decide to fight the fire...

- » On the stovetop, smother the flames by sliding a lid over the pan and turning off the burner. Leave the pan covered until it is completely cooled.
- » For an oven fire, turn off the heat and keep the door closed.

If you have any doubt about fighting a small fire...

- » Just get out! When you leave, close the door behind you to help contain the fire.
- » Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number from outside the home.



Cooking and Kids

Have a “kid-free zone” of at least 3 feet around the stove and areas where hot food or drink is prepared or carried.

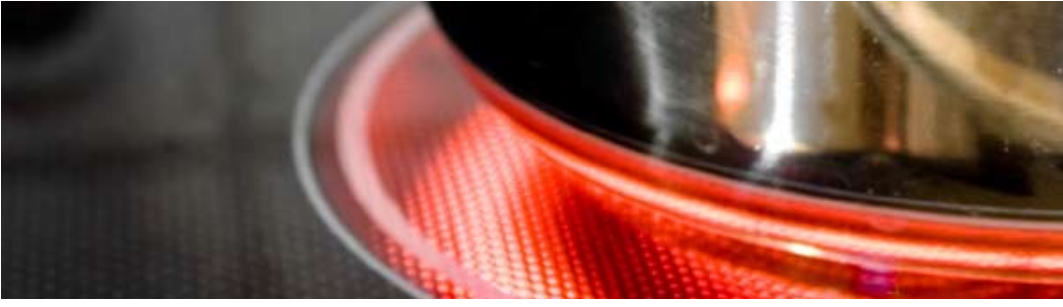
FACTS

- ! The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- ! Most cooking fires in the home involve the stovetop.



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Cooking Safety Tips

Unattended cooking is the leading cause of home fires in the United States. When cooking for holiday visitors, remember to keep an eye on what you are doing.

Safety Tips

- Stay in the kitchen when food is cooking. Turn off burners if you have to leave the room.
- Keep towels, pot holders and curtains away from hot surfaces.
- Wear short or close-fitting sleeves. Loose clothing can catch fire.
- Move appliance cords away from hot surfaces where they can melt or burn from excess heat. Pay particular attention to cords around toasters, ovens, and ranges.
- Use ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) protection anywhere that water may come into contact with electricity, such as kitchen countertops.
- Keep appliances away from the sink and other sources of water.

Cooking with Children

Holiday cooking and baking can be a fun activity for the whole family, as long as you remember to follow a few simple steps to ensure the safety of the littlest holiday chefs:

- Watch children closely in the kitchen.
- Keep children at least 3 feet away from cooking appliances.
- Never leave a child unsupervised while cooking or when an electric or gas stove is within reach.
- Turn pot handles toward the back of the stove so that children cannot pull them down. Use the back burners on the cooktop when possible.
- If you are cooking on the stove or in the microwave, do not hold your child as you remove items from these appliances.

Visit www.holidaysafety.org for more tips and tools to help keep you safe this season.



Clothes Dryer Safety

Doing laundry is most likely part of your every day routine. But did you know how important taking care of your clothes dryer is to the safety of your home? With a few simple safety tips you can help prevent a clothes dryer fire.

- » Have your dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- » Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- » Make sure you clean the lint filter before or after each load of laundry. Remove lint that has collected around the drum.
- » Rigid or flexible metal venting material should be used to sustain proper air flow and drying time.
- » Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operating. Once a year, or more often if you notice that it is taking longer than normal for your clothes to dry, clean lint out of the vent pipe or have a dryer lint removal service do it for you.
- » Keep dryers in good working order. Gas dryers should be inspected by a qualified professional to make sure that the gas line and connection are intact and free of leaks.
- » Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- » Follow the manufacturer's operating instructions and don't overload your dryer.
- » Turn the dryer off if you leave home or when you go to bed.

AND DON'T FORGET...

Dryers should be properly **grounded**.

Check the **outdoor vent** flap to make sure it is not covered by snow.

Keep the area around your dryer **clear** of things that can burn, like boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing, etc.

Clothes that have come in contact with **flammable substances**, like gasoline, paint thinner, or similar solvents should be laid outside to dry, then can be washed and dried as usual.

FACT

- ! The leading cause of home clothes dryer fires is failure to clean them.



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Heating Safety

There is something about the winter months and curling up with a good book by the fireplace. But did you know that heating equipment is one of the leading causes of home fire deaths? With a few simple safety tips and precautions you can prevent most heating fires from happening.

BE WARM AND SAFE THIS WINTER!

- »» Keep anything that can burn at least three-feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- »» Have a three-foot "kid-free zone" around open fires and space heaters.
- »» Never use your oven to heat your home.
- »» Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer's instructions.
- »» Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- »» Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- »» Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.
- »» Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.
- »» Test smoke alarms monthly.



Heating Equipment Smarts

Install wood burning stoves following manufacturer's instructions or have a professional do the installation. All fuel-burning equipment should be vented to the outside to avoid carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

Install and maintain CO alarms to avoid the risk of CO poisoning. If you **smell** gas in your gas heater, do not light the appliance. Leave the home immediately and call your local fire department or gas company.



FACT

Half of home heating fires are reported during the months of **December, January, and February.**



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Outdoor Electrical Safety

Lighting to improve the look and safety of our homes, electric tools to make our outdoor work easier, and power lines to our home, all need to be handled with care.

Outside Electrical Work

- Have a qualified electrician do all electrical work.
- To prevent an electrical shock, make sure all your outside electrical receptacles are GFCI (ground-fault circuit interrupter) protected.

Equipment Safety

- Use lighting and power tools that have the label of an independent test laboratory and make sure they are made for outdoor use.
- Store your electrical tools indoors.
- Keep electric tools away from children.
- Keep the area around your electric meter and other electrical equipment clear.
- Check lighting and extension cords for damage before using. Replace any damaged cords right away.
- Use extension cords that have the label of an independent testing laboratory and are marked for outdoor use.
- Extension cords are not meant for long-term use.

Power Lines

Have a professional tree cutting service trim branches that might fall on electric wiring. Use a wooden or fiberglass ladder outside. Keep the ladder at least 10 feet away from power lines. Never touch anyone or anything in contact with a downed wire. Power lines may be live, stay a safe distance away. Report downed wires to authorities right away.

IMPORTANT REMINDER

Call “**Before You Dig**” (8-1-1) before any digging on your property. They will mark where your underground utilities are located. *It's a free service!*



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Smoke Alarms at Home

SMOKE ALARMS ARE A KEY PART of a home fire escape plan. When there is a fire, smoke spreads fast. Working smoke alarms give you early warning so you can get outside quickly.

SAFETY TIPS

- »» Install smoke alarms inside and outside each bedroom and sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. Install alarms in the basement.
- »» Large homes may need extra smoke alarms.
- »» It is best to use interconnected smoke alarms. When one smoke alarm sounds they all sound.
- »» Test all smoke alarms at least once a month. Press the test button to be sure the alarm is working.
- »» There are two kinds of alarms. Ionization smoke alarms are quicker to warn about flaming fires. Photoelectric alarms are quicker to warn about smoldering fires. It is best to use both types of alarms in the home.
- »» A smoke alarm should be on the ceiling or high on a wall. Keep smoke alarms away from the kitchen to reduce false alarms. They should be at least 10 feet (3 meters) from the stove.
- »» People who are hard-of-hearing or deaf can use special alarms. These alarms have strobe lights and bed shakers.
- »» Replace all smoke alarms when they are 10 years old.



FACTS

- ! Smoke alarms should be installed inside every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level. Smoke alarms should be connected so when one sounds, they all sound. Most homes do not have this level of protection.
- ! Roughly 3 out of 5 fire deaths happen in homes with no smoke alarms or the alarms are not working.



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Carbon Monoxide Safety



Carbon monoxide (CO) is a gas. It has no odor. CO gas is poisonous. It can make a person feel sick and can be deadly. In the home, heating and cooking devices that burn fuel can be sources of carbon monoxide.

CO ALARMS

- » CO alarms should be installed outside each sleeping area. Install alarms on every level of the home. It is best to use interconnected alarms. When one sounds, all CO alarms in the home sound.
- » Follow the instructions on the package to properly install the CO alarm.
- » Test CO alarms at least once a month.
- » Replace CO alarms according to the instructions on the package.
- » Know the sounds the CO alarm makes. It will sound if CO is detected. It will make a different sound if the battery is low or if it is time to get a new CO alarm.
- » If the battery is low, replace it.
- » If the CO alarm sounds, you must get fresh air. Move outdoors, by an open window or near an open door. Make sure everyone in the home gets to fresh air. Call the fire department from a fresh air location. Stay there until help arrives.

PREVENT CO POISONING

- » When warming a vehicle, move it out of the garage. Do not run a fueled engine indoors, even if garage doors are open. Make sure the exhaust pipe of a running vehicle is not blocked. Clear snow away.
- » During and after a snowstorm, make sure vents for the dryer, furnace, stove and fireplace are clear of snow build-up.
- » Clear all debris from dryer, furnace, stove, and fireplace vents.
- » A generator should be used outdoors. Use in a well-ventilated location away from windows, doors, and vent openings.
- » Gas or charcoal grills can produce CO. Only use them outside.
- » Have heating equipment and chimneys inspected by a professional every year before cold weather sets in.
- » Open the damper when using a fireplace for adequate ventilation.
- » Never use your oven or stove to heat your home.

FACT!

CO is called the invisible killer because the gas cannot be seen or smelled. Take action to stay safe from CO poisoning.



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Provided by Dave's Electrical Service 216-371-1580



Cost Effective Retrofit & Remodel Solutions

- Wireless interconnect technology eliminates the need to pull wires through existing walls
- Save an average of between \$150 - \$200** per alarm when compared to retrofitting hardwired alarms in existing walls or ceilings
- Faster job turnaround - 4X more jobs completed increases your profits
- Photoelectric sensing technology saves maintenance calls with fewer nuisance alarms

Putting the Innovation in Renovation

When it comes to alarm renovation and retrofit projects, choices have been limited. Installing battery operated alarms and sacrificing interconnectability or investing in the time and labor to retrofit hardwired alarms have been the only options available.* Until Now! BRK Wireless Interconnect eliminates the need to pull wires through existing walls saving time, money and labor.

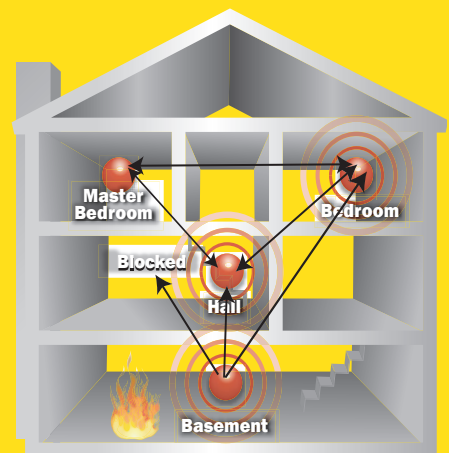
No matter what your renovation project, BRK Wireless Interconnect provides a cost effective solution:

Home Addition Projects:

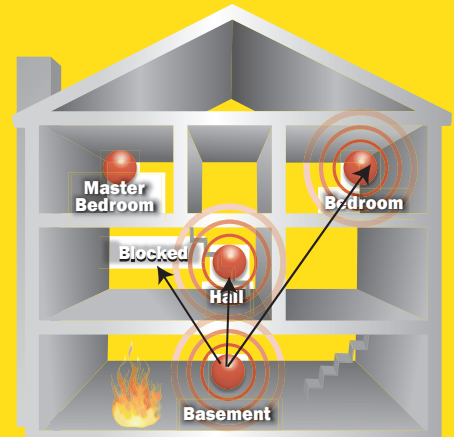
Using the BRK Wireless Interconnect hardwired "Bridge Unit" (SA520B), simply replace one hardwired alarm in the existing section and add one to the new section. Wireless technology saves time, material and labor to connect to the existing alarm circuit. Now add standard BRK hardwired alarms as required in the new section and other BRK Wireless Interconnect battery alarms in the old section to complete the alarm safety system and bring entire home up to code. All alarms, hardwired and battery, existing and new are now interconnected.

Retrofit Projects:

Property Owners, Facility Managers and Electrical Contractors can all benefit from installing BRK Wireless Interconnect alarms for existing retrofit projects. Saving \$150 - \$200** per alarm and increasing job turnaround 4X are key reasons to consider BRK Wireless Interconnect alarms for all of your renovation projects.



Mesh Network Communication



Competitive Wireless One-Way Communication

Mesh Network Communication

BRK Wireless Interconnect alarms operate on a "mesh network"; a 2-way communication format that sends, receives and then re-sends the alarm signals. If the initiating alarm signal is blocked from reaching one of the alarms, the mesh network communication reroutes and re-sends the signal via the other alarms as shown in the illustration. With competitive one-way wireless communication, only the initiating alarm sends a signal which may never be received, leaving the blocked alarm deadly silent.

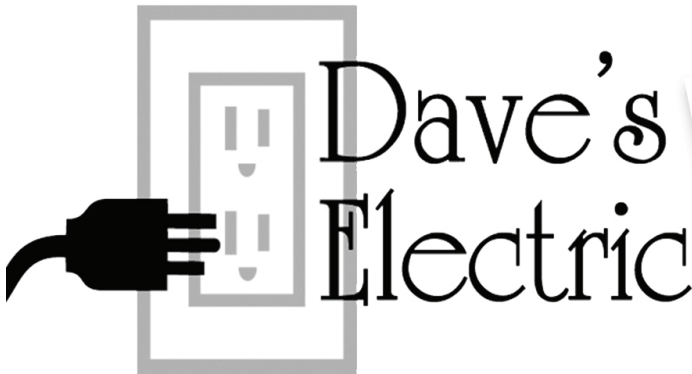
*Local codes permitting

**Note: Based on average retrofitting costs of time, material and labor to connect to existing alarm circuit, drywall repairs, painting, etc. Special cases that require conduit, wire mold, concrete drilling, etc. would add additional costs and increase savings.

ELECTRICAL WORK CAN BE **INTIMIDATING, TEDIOUS,**
AND **POTENTIALLY LIFE THREATENING.**

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