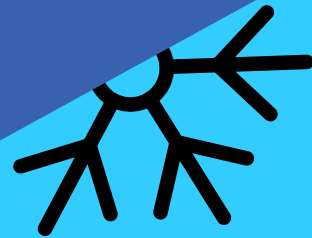


MISTER SPARKY'S
TOP TEN
ELECTRICAL SAFETY
Tips for Hot and Cold Weather



ELECTRICAL SAFETY IN THE HOME

Electricity is an integral part of our lives, no matter where we happen to live. Although electricity, for the most part, is a safe and efficient form of energy, it is easy to forget all the potential dangers that come from poor safety practices. Power outages, fire, wobbly panels, shoddy wiring, electrocutions... all of these can happen any time of day, any time of year.

According to Electrical Safety Foundation International ([ESFi](#)), about 51,000 electrical fires occur in the home each year and are responsible for nearly 500 deaths, 1,400 injuries and \$1.3 billion in property damage.* The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reports that nearly 400 people are electrocuted in the U.S. each year.

With 55 locations across the U.S., Mister Sparky has established itself as a leader in electrical repair, installation and maintenance. We always want to make sure that your electronics and electrical work are running safely and smoothly, so we've put together this guide with tips and things to look out for regarding your protection.

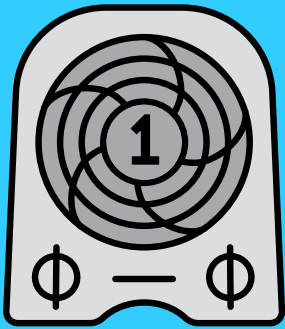
SAFE & SECURE, NO MATTER WHERE YOU ARE

Whether you're bundled up in New Jersey or sunbathing in California, there are always tips you should follow to ensure that your home electrical systems are safe and secure. Although many of these tips apply everywhere there are some that are better suited to cold or hot weather.



TIPS FOR COLD WEATHER

Winter months may bring many hazards into the home. To better prepare you for the weather, here are Mister Sparky's Top 5 Tips for Cold Weather:



Give your space heaters room to breathe. Too often portable heaters are placed near combustible sources such as bed coverings and draperies. **Ensure that there is at least 3 feet of space between your space heater and other flammable sources!** And always remember – never leave your space heater unattended! For more information on the safest space heaters, check out [Mister Sparky's Expert Tips](#).

2 Certain electronics (like space heaters!) can overload existing circuits in the home, causing extreme heating hazards in the wiring and breaker boxes. **Verify the heater wattage and make sure existing electrical circuits are adequate for heater loads.** This may require an electrical evaluation. Mister Sparky always completes a 32-point electrical inspection that provides information about the general health of your home's electrical system.

3

Extension cords used inside and outside the home for holiday decorations are always sources of danger. **Try to refrain from using any non-grounded (2-prong) extension cords for holiday lighting.** This will guarantee optimal operation of ground-fault protection. Stick to 3-prong cords, which include a third wire and additional prong for grounding.

4

Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protection via GFCI receptacles and breakers is necessary to prevent shocking hazards common in rainy or snowy conditions. **Make sure ground-fault protection on required devices is working by testing monthly.**



It's easy to rely on gas furnaces and fireplaces during the cold weather months. That's why it's pertinent that smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are operational, up-to-date and in working order. Battery maintenance is critical these months! **Setting calendar reminders to change batteries on smoke and carbon monoxide detectors are prudent safety measures for the health and safety of your family.**



TIPS FOR HOT WEATHER

Even if you're sporting flip flops and tank tops, you're still not out of the woods in regards to electrical safety. Here are **Mister Sparky's Top 5 Tips for Hot Weather:**

1 Electrocutation is a real danger, especially if electrical appliances are set up too close to the water. **Make sure all electronics are kept a safe distance away from pools, sprinklers, bathtubs, etc.**

2 It's fun to run through the sprinkler, but if you're standing in water, even a little, you can seriously harm yourself. **Do not use or touch any appliance when wet! Electricity travels quickly through water, which can lead to an unwanted shock.**

3 **Make sure GFCI outlets are installed in all "wet" areas of your home in order to prevent shocks.** This includes bathrooms, kitchens, garages, basements and areas around the pool or deck.

4 Are your electrical appliances "grounded?" **Washers, dryers, refrigerators, air conditioners and the like should be plugged into grounded outlets and not extension cords.**

5 Use the nice weather to spruce up! Frayed or damaged cords can cause fires. **Replace any questionable electronics, wires or cords.** And if you have a question – call [Mister Sparky!](#)





GET IT DONE RIGHT. GET IT DONE SAFELY.

Electrical safety is of the utmost importance – and we believe in protecting your home and loved ones from all the potential dangers that come with “being on the grid.” You shouldn’t put up with any “malarky” when it comes to your electrical care – instead, call [Mister Sparky!](#)

Electrical work is some of the most skill-intensive, high-stakes maintenance or repairs you do for your home. Bad electrical work makes your home unsafe; good electrical work keeps your home running safely for years. Why trust someone whose name you don’t know?

Mister Sparky provides our customers with the one thing they’re really looking for: the peace of mind that comes from real trust and confidence. Our technicians are all highly trained, exceptionally skilled, licensed and insured. Additionally, our work is backed by a 100% satisfaction guarantee. When our customers need electrical repairs, installation, or maintenance, they know all they have to do is pick up the phone; **we’ll take care of the rest.**



Resources

For more information on Electrical Safety, please visit:

Mister Sparky – [Mistersparky.com](#) — Tel: (800) 906-4577

Electrical Safety Foundation International – [Esfi.org](#)

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission – [cpsc.gov](#)

National Fire Protection Association – [nfpa.org](#)

2020 National Electrical Code® – [nfpa.org/codes-and-standards](#)