

# PERSONAL INSURANCE

## Guarantee GOLD<sup>®</sup>

### LOSS CONTROL TIPS – ELECTRICAL SAFETY

*Our homes are filled with many electrical devices and appliances providing us with a very comfortable standard of living. However, personal injuries and fires due to improper use of electricity occur every year in Canada resulting in lost lives and extensive property damage. Many of these injuries and fires could have been prevented had electrical safety been followed in the home.*

*The following tips will help you make your home safe. They are easy to follow and should be part of your home's safety plan.*

- ⦿ Know where the electrical panel or fuse box is located in your home.
- ⦿ For older homes, when replacing fuses use the appropriate size. Also, if the home only has 60 AMP service, consider having a licensed electrician upgrade your service to 100 AMP.
- ⦿ All outlets and panels should have coverplates installed.
- ⦿ With children in a home, safety caps should be placed on all unused outlets.
- ⦿ Electrical outlets should not be overloaded with appliances or devices.
- ⦿ Bathrooms, kitchens and laundry rooms should be protected with ground fault interruptor (GFI) outlets. These GFI outlets should also be installed in garages and outdoors.
- ⦿ Extension cords should be used for temporary use only. An electrician should be hired to install additional wiring and outlets, if required.
- ⦿ Do not use appliances or extension cords if the electrical cord is split, cracked or damaged.
- ⦿ Electrical cords should not be modified in any way. Ground plugs should not be removed to plug a three prong device into a two prong outlet.
- ⦿ Electrical cords should not be placed under rugs.
- ⦿ Electrical surge protectors should be used to protect electronic devices like computers and entertainment units.
- ⦿ Read and follow all instructions provided with electronic devices and appliances.
- ⦿ Devices and appliances that generate heat, such as televisions, entertainment units, light fixtures and computer monitors, should be given several inches of clearance all around for adequate air circulation and cooling.
- ⦿ Keep clothes, curtains, and other combustible materials at least three feet away from electric radiators and space heaters.
- ⦿ Keep all electrical devices away from water such as kitchen or bathroom sinks, showers, bathtubs, pools or hot tubs.
- ⦿ Use the appropriate wattage of light bulbs in all lamps and light fixtures.
- ⦿ All electrical work should be done by a licensed electrician and repairs to electronic devices and appliances should be done by qualified people at repair shops.
- ⦿ Never touch anyone who is being shocked. The shock can spread through body contact injuring another person.
- ⦿ Call 911 emergency services immediately in case of electrical injury or fire.

***It is important to think and practice electrical safety in your home. Doing so will minimize the risk of personal injury or property damage.***

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