



REDUCE THE RISK OF ELECTRICAL FIRES

- **Inspect** electrical cords and plugs regularly, discard them if they are worn or frayed
- Never pull the cord to remove the plug from a socket; this can wear the cord and increase the risk of a short circuit and a fire; can also create a shock hazard
- **Eliminate** octopus connectors; plugging multiple cords into a single socket can overload the circuit
- **Never** break off the third prong on a plug - always replace two pronged sockets with three pronged sockets
- Never use extension cords as permanent wiring
- Never lay electrical cords under carpets
- Always keep electrical cords away from sources of heat and water
- Always use safety plugs in unused outlets to protect children

ALWAYS CONSULT A CERTIFIED ELECTRICIAN IF YOU ARE NOT SURE

ARE YOUR CIRCUITS OVERLOADED OR OUTDATED?

Older homes and apartments sometimes have inadequate wiring which can be both a fire hazard and an electrical hazard. Symptoms of inadequate wiring include, but are not limited to:

- One appliance must be disconnected in order to plug another in
- "Octopus" outlets are used extensively
- Extension cords are used extensively
- Fuse blow frequently
- Circuit breakers trip frequently
- Appliances such as toasters or irons are slow to heat
- Lights dim noticeable when another appliance is used
- Furniture arrangement is limited because there are too few outlets
- Rooms and stairways must be entered in darkness because of a lack of three or four-way light switches

If you are experiencing any of these symptoms, call a qualified electrician to inspect and improve your electrical system. Fires can be very expensive!

