ASSURED
HOME
INSPECTIONS
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HOME TIPS: electricity

BEFORE

AFTER

At this time of year, many of us are busy putting up decorations and lights, which require electricity to operate. Often, in our haste to get things done we over look safety, and may be overloading electrical circuits.

Most overload situations, are the result of putting too many electrical plugs into one receptacle by using ***'multi outlet adapters and octopus connectors'****. These items can be regarded as the cause of most fire and electrocution incidents, and their use should be discouraged.*

A typical receptacle in your home is rated for 15 amps. When we try to pull more electricity through the receptacle, than the wiring is equipped to handle, we create an overload situation. With an overloaded wire, too many electrons are moving through the wire at the same time. This causes resistance, and as a result the wire heats up. ***Hot wires can start fires.***

This information can be used year round. For example, many people convert a room or space in their house to be used as a home office. A home office consists of many electrical devices, including but not limited to: computers, modems, routers, printers, scanners, speakers, fax/phone/answering machines, shredders, lamps, etc. which all need to be "plugged in".

If more electrical receptacles are required, you should speak with an electrician about having more receptacles installed, or the use of surge-protected power strips or voltage regulators which are CSA (or equivalent) approved for continuous use.