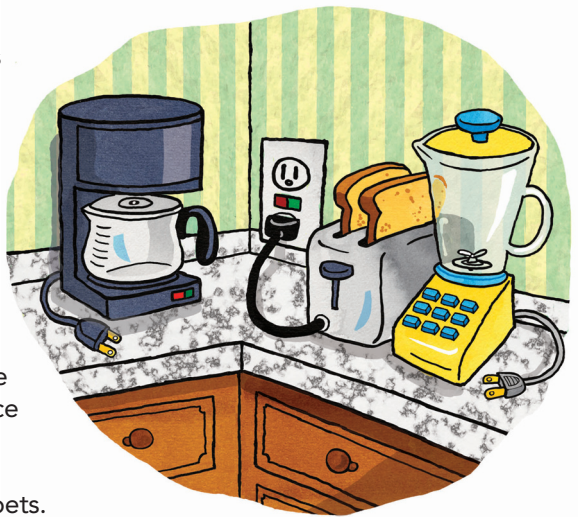
Electrical Safety: Checklist



- ❑ **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
- ❑ **Inspect your home** for hidden electrical hazards.
- ❑ **Check electrical cords** to make sure the wires are not damaged, cracked or loose. If the cords need to be repaired, take the item to a professional repair shop, hire an electrician or replace with a new item.
- ❑ **Make sure cords** are not running across doorways or under carpets. If they are, have a qualified electrician install more outlets.
- ❑ **Keep children away** from electric cords and outlets. Cords placed in the mouth can cause a burn and objects placed in a receptacle can cause a shock, burns or electrocution.
- ❑ **Make sure that** all receptacle outlets and switches have faceplates.
- ❑ **Never put more** than one plug in each receptacle. An outlet may have one or more receptacles — one to receive each plug.
- ❑ **Be sure that the bulbs** in your lights match what is safe for the lamp. There should be a sticker that indicates the maximum wattage for the light bulb — such as use maximum of a 60 watt bulb.
- ❑ **Light bulbs in the living area** of your home, including closets, should have a shade or globe for protection. Light bulbs can get very hot and cause a fire if something that can burn is too close.
- ❑ **Ground-fault circuit interrupters** (GFCIs) reduce the risk of shock by shutting off an electrical circuit when the circuit could be a shock hazard. Your home should have GFCIs in the kitchen, bathroom(s), laundry, basement, garage, and outdoor areas.
- ❑ **Heat producing appliances** such as a toaster, coffee maker, iron or microwave oven draw a lot of electricity. Plug only one heat producing appliance in each outlet to prevent wiring from overheating.
- ❑ **Buy only appliances** that have the label of a recognized testing laboratory.
- ❑ **Arc-fault circuit interrupters** (AFCIs) protect against fire by monitoring the electrical current in a circuit and shutting off the circuit when unintended arcing occurs. AFCIs should be installed in your home. If not, have a professional electrician install them for you.
- ❑ **Keep ladders away** from overhead power lines, including the electrical service into your home.

Think Green! Turn off lights when you are not in the room. Unplug appliances when not in use.