

SAFETY SENSE

Don't Let Your Presents Put You In Danger

(NAPSA)—Most people's holiday gift haul included electronics. If that's you, be aware that some items draw more electricity than others.

If the addition of new electrical equipment is causing fuses to fail or circuit breakers to trip, you may be overloading your home's electrical system. That could be dangerous, because overloaded electrical circuits start a substantial number of fires in U.S. homes every year.

Here are some tips to help keep you safe from electric shock or circuit overload:

In the kitchen:

- Install ground-fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets near any source of water.

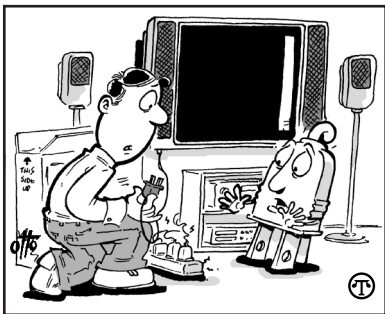
- Plug any kitchen appliance that uses water, such as coffee and espresso machines, blenders and juicers, only into GFCI outlets.

- Freestanding microwave ovens should not share a circuit with any other electrical appliance.

In the living room:

- Large-screen televisions can draw a lot of power. Give them their own circuits.

- If room lights dim when an electrical component, such as a TV, is turned on, a circuit is probably overloaded. Either spread the



Electric holiday gifts could present a safety hazard.

electrical load to more circuits or have additional circuits installed by a licensed electrician.

- Leave air space around home entertainment components to avoid overheating, which could lead to an electrical fire.

In the bathroom:

- Plug all electrical appliances, such as hair dryers and curling irons, into GFCIs.

- Never use electrical appliances near running or standing water.

- Whenever possible, purchase appliances with built-in GFCIs, especially if they will be plugged into standard outlets.

Visit www.electrical-safety.org for more information about electrical safety.