



Maintaining the Home

Small Electrical Appliance Care and Cleaning

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If the cord is detachable, unplug the cord from the wall outlet before removing it from the appliance.

Unplug small electrical appliances, such as toasters, blenders, etc. after using them. Do not leave them on the counter plugged in. Fires can start if an electrical component malfunctions.

Do not put plugged-in electrical appliances where they could drop or be pulled into water, as in the kitchen sink, toilet or tub. Drain all water before plugging in the appliance nearby. Electrical appliances are “electrically alive” when plugged in even

though the switch is off. If it falls into water, you could be electrocuted if you touch it.

Never plug in an electrical appliance, either “on” or “off”, anywhere near water, and go away and leave it if there are children around who could pull it into the water and be electrocuted.

Never wrap a cord around a hot appliance. Do not wrap a cord too tightly around anything. Coil loosely, and keep it free from kinks and knots which can break wires. Plug only one heating appliance into a circuit at a time unless the circuit is for a heavy-duty appliance.

Small Electrical Appliance Cleaning

Unplug and cool appliance before cleaning. Wipe with a damp cloth and dry with a soft cloth or paper towel. If grease or food spills on exteriors,

use a sudsy cloth, followed by a damp cloth. Do not get any moisture into electrical parts. Do NOT immerse any appliances or parts in water unless specifically labeled “immersible” in the care guide.

Wash the interiors of appliances for food preparation such as the inside of frying pans, slow cookers, etc., taking care not to get electrical parts wet.

Do NOT wash waffle-irons.

Clean the bottoms of frying pans, etc., after each use to avoid grease buildup. Use fine soap-filled steel wool pads for stubborn grease.

Follow special label or care guide instructions with the appliance for specific parts or materials.

This material was adapted from publications produced by Michigan State University. Michigan State publications can be found on the Web at <http://www.msue.msu.edu/msue/imp/mod02/master02.html>.

*This resource is one in a series on **Maintaining the Home** which include:*

Interior Maintenance

Preventive Home Maintenance Checkup
Make a Basic Toolkit for Simple Home Repairs
Selection and Use of Home Cleaning Products
Discovering the Secrets of Successful Storage

Heating

Furnace Care
Fireplace and Chimney Care

Cooling

Evaporative Cooler
Air Conditioner
Ceiling Fans

Plumbing

Fixing Plugged Sink Drains
How to Unclog a Toilet
Repairing Dripping Faucets

Electrical

How to Set or Reset a Circuit Breaker
How to Replace a Fuse

Appliances

How to Buy an Energy Efficient Home Appliance
Choosing a Water Heater

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Dryer Care and Dryer Cleaning
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Walls

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Selecting Fabric For Home Furnishings

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Exterior Walls, Windows, and Doors

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A Guide To Roofs
Roof Maintenance

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Principles of Xeriscape
Watering Your Lawn

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Child-Proofing Your Home
Is Your Home Safe From Fire Hazards?
Smoke Alarms Save Lives
Carbon Monoxide Alarms
Are Your Children Safe From Poisons?
Protecting Yourself Against Burglary

Conservation

Weatherize Your Home
Easy Tips to Save Money and the Planet
How to Stop Air Leaks Around Windows
Energy-Efficient Heating and Cooling
Indoor Water Conservation Tips
Outdoor Water Conservation Tips

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Healthy Indoor Air for New Mexico Homes
Dealing with Mold
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Hazardous Household Substances: Alternatives That Are Relatively Free of Toxic Effects
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Cockroaches and Their Control
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Hand Dexterity, Strength and Range of Motion
Cognitive Difficulties
Mobility Impairments, Balance and Coordination

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