



# Electricity

## Sample Home Inspection Checklist

This checklist needs to be approved by your merit badge counselor before you use it to fulfill requirement #2 of the merit badge.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

### 1. Outlets

- Fix electrical outlets that have loose-fitting plugs
- Replace any missing or broken wall plates
- Place safety covers on all unused outlets that are accessible to children

### 2. Cords

- Replace frayed or cracked cords in all appliances, lights, and electronic equipment
- Move cords out of traffic areas
- Check that no nails or staples are used on cords
- Check that no cords are under carpets or rugs
- Check that no furniture is resting on cords

### 3. Extension Cords

- Check for overloaded extension cords
- Check for permanently used extension cords – they should be only used temporarily
- Install safety closures on all extension cords

### 4. Plugs

- Check that all plugs fit their outlets correctly
- Check that the ground pin has not been removed from any plugs
- Check that no plugs have been forced into an outlet

### 5. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)

- Ensure GFCIs are installed in appropriate outlet locations in the kitchen, bathroom, laundry room, garage, and other locations where water may be present
- Test GFCIs according to the manufacturer's instructions
- Arrange replacement of non-functioning GFCI with a new GFCI
- Repair any appliance that trips a GFCI at an authorized repair service or replace the appliance

## 6. Light Bulbs

- Check bulbs in light fixtures to make sure they are the correct wattage for the size of the fixture. Replace bulbs that are a higher wattage than recommended
- Check that all bulbs are screwed in securely

## 7. Circuit Breakers/Fuses

- Check that circuit breakers and fuses are the correct size current rating for their circuit. Have a licensed electrician identify and label the correct size to use.

## 8. Appliances

- Repair or replace any appliance that repeatedly blows a fuse or trips a circuit breaker or has given anyone a shock.
- Check for appliances being used where they may fall into water. Figure out a better place to use the appliance and move it.
- Check to see that all appliances are in good condition and working properly
- Use surge protectors for all computer and home entertainment equipment and other appliances susceptible to burn-out from power spikes

## 9. Outdoor Safety

- Check power tools and electric lawn mowers for frayed power cords, broken plugs, and cracked or broken housings
- Check that all extension cords being used outside are specifically designed for outdoor use and are rated for the power needs of the tools being used
- Check that no portable power tools are left plugged in when not in use

## 10. Lightning

- During an electrical storm, do not use appliances, computers, or telephones
- During an electrical storm, do not take a shower or bath
- Check that flashlights with fresh batteries are available for power outages

## 11. Space Heaters

- Check that all space heaters are a minimum of 3 feet from any combustibles
- Check that space heaters are not used where children may be left unsupervised
- Check that all unused space heaters are turned off and unplugged
- Check that space heaters are connected directly to an outlet and not an extension cord

## 12. Halogen Floor Lamps

- Check that all halogen lamps are well away from combustibles
- Do not use halogen lamps where children may be left unsupervised