

**Memorial Day BBQs, Camping, and Summer Prep**

As Memorial Day approaches, many of us are gearing up for BBQs, camping trips, and the start of summer fun. With more outdoor activities comes the need for increased attention to electrical safety, ensuring that everything from outdoor lights to cooking equipment operates smoothly and safely. Here are a few key tips to keep in mind as you prepare for your Memorial Day gatherings and summer adventures.

**Inspect Outdoor Extension Cords**

Before plugging in your outdoor lights, speakers, or cooking equipment, make sure your extension cords are in good condition. Check for fraying, cuts, or exposed wires that could cause an electrical shock or fire hazard. If any extension cords are damaged, replace them immediately. Use cords that are rated for outdoor use and rated to handle the power requirements of the appliances or tools you're using.

**Keep Electrical Equipment Dry**

Water and electricity don't mix, so always keep outdoor electrical outlets and appliances dry. Use weatherproof covers for outlets, and never plug electrical equipment into outlets exposed to rain or water. When using outdoor lights or electrical grills, make sure they are properly rated for outdoor use to avoid any electrical mishaps.

**Avoid Overloading Circuits**

It's easy to get carried away with the excitement of outdoor gatherings, but overloading electrical circuits can lead to overheating, which may cause fires. Be sure not to overload extension cords or power strips with too many devices. If you're using an outdoor generator, always follow the manufacturer's instructions to ensure you're not putting too much strain on the system.



## Use Outdoor-Rated Appliances

When setting up for your BBQ or camping trip, ensure that any electrical appliances, from grills to coolers, are rated for outdoor use. Using indoor appliances outside can expose them to weather conditions they weren't designed for, increasing the risk of malfunction or electrical failure.



## Practice Grill and Heater Safety

Outdoor cooking and heating equipment are often powered by electricity, so it's important to handle them safely. Always read the manufacturer's guidelines for your electric grill or outdoor heater, and never leave them unattended while in use. Be sure to turn off all appliances after you're finished and store them in a dry, safe place when not in use.

## Keep Electrical Cords Away from Walkways

With more foot traffic outside during BBQs and camping trips, it's important to keep electrical cords away from high-traffic areas where people might trip. Use cord covers or cord organizers to keep wires safely out of the way and prevent accidents.

## Install Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs)

For an added layer of protection, consider installing GFCI outlets or using GFCI adapters for outdoor electrical work. These devices quickly cut off power if they detect a ground fault, preventing electrical shocks and enhancing safety around water.

As you prepare for Memorial Day celebrations and summer fun, keep these outdoor electrical safety tips in mind. With just a little preparation and attention to detail, you can ensure your gatherings are both fun and safe. Enjoy your summer with peace of mind, knowing that you've taken the necessary precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones.