



## Energy safety 2: In the home

Every home contains cables and wires carrying mains electricity. Mains electricity is powerful and dangerous if misused - it can give electric shocks that can injure or even kill. Stay safe around electricity by following these rules:

- 1.** A socket is designed for one or two plugs. An extension cord can take more plugs but you should not try to plug lots of equipment into one socket - it can get very hot, causing danger.
- 2.** There are over 100 metres of electric cables in the walls of nearly every house. You cannot see them but if they are touched by making a hole in the wall, they can give a deadly electric shock.
- 3.** Only plugs should be put into an electric socket, nothing else. Pushing a finger or anything else into them could lead to serious injury or worse.
- 4.** Water conducts electricity, so if it is raining, all electrical equipment should be brought inside right away.
- 5.** Always dry wet hands before touching anything electrical, such as a switch.
- 6.** Do not take radios or any other electrical equipment into a bathroom because water conducts electricity.
- 7.** Never poke metal objects into toasters. There is electricity flowing inside toasters and this can be dangerous. Many people have had an electric shock from poking objects such as knives into them. If something gets stuck in a toaster, switch it off and let it cool, then either tip it up or use a wooden spoon to get the object out.
- 8.** Leave electrical equipment to the experts. Never try to take appliances apart or you could receive a very dangerous electric shock.
- 9.** Electric power cords or leads can get damaged. The bare wires in them can be deadly if touched so an appliance with a damaged cord should not be used at all - get a new one.
- 10.** Do not pull on the cord when you are unplugging a device, hold onto the plug itself.