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# High Voltage

A quarterly publication from CEL&P

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## Your Old Home Wiring: Is It Safe?

Anyone who has ever owned an older home has seen the old knob and tube wiring systems or dealt with frayed or torn electric wires. The question is, are older wiring systems a safety hazard? Over 41,000 home fires each year are caused by faulty electrical wiring, according to the National Fire Protection Association. The Electrical Safety Foundation also estimates that over fifty million U.S. homes don't meet



## Money Savers: Low-Cost Energy Upgrades

Do you want to save on energy costs without spending a lot of money? Fortunately, there are a variety of simple and inexpensive upgrades that won't break your budget but can have a big impact on your energy bills.

### **LED bulbs**

ENERGY STAR®-certified LEDs are up to 75% more energy-efficient than conventional incandescent bulbs. LEDs

current electrical code safety standards. While these statistics are alarming, older wiring doesn't necessarily spell trouble. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) suggests the following key indicators as signs of potential problems with your electrical system:

- Lights dim, or the television picture shrinks when other appliances are turned on.
- Circuit breakers often need resetting, or fuses need frequent replacement.
- Appliances such as toasters or irons don't get as hot as they should or take a long time to heat up.

Older electrical systems can cause other issues as well. Older homes are not often equipped with ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). GFCIs are designed to protect against electrical hazards in bathrooms and kitchens. A lack of electrical outlets can also lead to frequent use of extension cords, which is associated with an increase in fire hazards.

If you suspect that your home wiring is not up to code or is a safety hazard, have it inspected by a qualified electrical contractor. For more information, visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) and [www.celp.com](http://www.celp.com).



## Power Outage Information

If you lose power due to wind, rain, or other circumstances, don't worry CEL&P crews will work quickly to restore your power. Report downed power lines by calling CEL&P at 765- 362-1900 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a week or call 911. Outage information updates will be posted on our **Facebook** and **Twitter** pages.

also last much longer — you won't have to switch out or pay for a new lightbulb for years. LEDs also provide high-quality light in a variety of colors or tones. Soft white bulbs are perfect for reading or relaxing. Daylight bulbs provide brighter light for tasks, such as cooking or doing laundry.

### **Advanced power strips**

One easy and inexpensive way to eliminate that energy waste is to plug your electronics into advanced power strips. Also known as "smart" power strips, these handy units look like ordinary power strips, but they come with built-in features designed to help you save energy and money. There are different types of advanced power strips on the market, but they all operate on the same basic principle — shutting off power to devices that are not in use. You can find them at your local electronics or home improvement retailer.

### **Connected thermostats**

Wi-Fi (or connected) programmable thermostats provide cost savings and convenience while ensuring comfort. With a programmable unit, you can easily set your thermostat to automatically adjust temperatures to save energy based on your schedule and the season. Wi-Fi models also come with handy remote control capabilities. Advanced "smart" thermostats are not only connected, they can actually learn your habits and lifestyle and program themselves to optimize savings and comfort.

### **Water-efficient fixtures**

To keep your energy dollars from going down the drain, install water-efficient showerheads and faucet aerators. These fixtures use less water while still providing a comfortable flow.

When choosing products, look for the EPA's WaterSense label.

**WaterSense-labeled fixtures** are independently certified to be more water-efficient than standard models. With just a little investment in time and money, you can make your home more energy-efficient and comfortable.

For energy-saving tips visit [www.celp.com](http://www.celp.com).

# 7 CAMPUS SAFETY TIPS



## Every College Student Should Know

Relay these safety tips to your young adults who are about to hit campus for the first time or return for another year.

1. Do not overload electrical outlets, power strips or extension cords. Use power strips with an overcurrent protector.
2. Be aware of your surroundings, especially when listening to music or texting.
3. Unplug small appliances when not in use and all appliances when away for extended periods.
4. This tip still holds true: never walk alone at night.
5. Avoid using generic cubes or cords. They could overheat, shock or burn you.
6. Locate the emergency call buttons or phones across campus in case of an emergency.
7. Do not put your cell phone on or under your pillow or bedding. It could overheat or catch fire.





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