

Small Appliance SAFETY

Safety



A Guide to Help Combat Large Loss Potential with Small Appliance Safety

Small Appliances have the potential to create a large loss.
Here are some general tips to help prevent potential damages due to small appliance use.

- Always follow the manufacturer's operating and safety instructions.
- Never use an appliance with a frayed, worn, or damaged cord.
- Plug appliances directly into the outlet; avoid adapters and extension cords.
- Look for new safety features on the appliances you buy. Many new appliances will have safety features that automatically shut them off.
- Look for the Underwriter's Laboratories (UL) mark on your new appliance. This means an independent laboratory has tested samples of the product for public safety and has found that they meet applicable standards.
- Unplug small appliances when not in use. This will assure that you have turned them off while also conserving energy.

Some of the most commonly used household appliances create the greatest risk.
Here are some safety tips for those appliances.

Coffee Maker

Approximately 14 million coffeemakers are sold each year in the United States. By following the manufacturer's guidelines, you can prevent hot coffee from overflowing. Also, be sure to turn the coffeemaker and remove the pot when finished to prevent the pot from drying out and creating a fire hazard.



Hair Dryer

When storing a hair dryer, many people wrap the cord around the handle. This practice may increase the cords propensity to fray and crack. You may avoid this by gathering the cord loosely or purchasing a hair dryer with a retractable cord. Also, make sure that you are plugging the appliance into an outlet that has a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) to protect against shock.



Microwave Oven

Excess microwaves have the potential to leak and create a health hazard. You should remember to operate the oven only if the door closes firmly. Also, use only microwave safe containers – metal objects should never be put in the microwave oven as it will damage the unit.

Iron

Clothes irons have the potential to get hot enough to ignite combustible materials. Never leave a hot iron unattended or near combustible materials. Consider investing in an iron that has an automatic shut off which will turn the iron off if it hasn't been moved for a pre-set period of time.



Toaster

There is a high potential for fires to start in a toaster. Opening the door may fan the flames and create a larger fire. Keep the door closed and unplug the toaster if safe and possible. To decrease the possibility of these potential problems, keep your toaster free of crumbs and other things that may ignite.



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