



# Preventing electrical system fires

Even small measures can reduce your risk of an electrical fire. This guide will help you identify many small things you can do as part of a solid fire prevention strategy. Think of them as smart investments in your business's future.



## LEADING CAUSES OF COMMERCIAL BUILDING ELECTRICAL FIRES

To reduce your risk, you first need to familiarize yourself with the leading causes:

- Unsafe installation and inconsistent electrical system maintenance, including inspections
- Improper extension cord usage
- Inadequate system component design or maintenance
- Failure to upgrade aged or outdated electrical systems to meet current standards
- Lack of appropriate timers or high-temperature shut-off switches
- Uncontrolled operations running unattended
- Failure to recognize the signs of electrical system problems:
  - Frequently tripped breakers or ground-fault circuits
  - Unexplained dead outlets and burnt covers
  - Flickering or dimmed lights and burnt-out lightbulbs
  - Visible sparks in switches or plug components
  - Unusual range swings in temperature-controlled equipment
  - Excessive circuit temperature variations indicated by infrared scans



## PREVENTION STRATEGIES

With the following prevention strategies, you'll be able to identify, reduce, or even eliminate many risks:

- Perform monthly visual inspections of your existing electrical system
- Have a commercial electrical contractor perform a comprehensive system inspection every four to five years
- Install permanent wiring to reduce the usage of power strips and extension cords
- Have qualified, licensed professionals perform electrical work and installations
- Remove old or damaged electrical appliances, such as space heaters, fans, toasters, and lamps



## COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH ELECTRICAL FIRES

While some losses—property damage, loss of critical data, and business interruption—are likely covered in your policy, it's important that you recognize potential costs that may not be covered:

- Deductibles, copays, and increased premiums
- Diverted management time and costs related to investigations
- Extended business operation interruptions beyond your policy limit
- Reputational damage due to delayed recovery

**The better your team's understanding of electrical fire prevention, the more likely they'll be to identify potential issues before disaster strikes. To learn more, visit [sentry.com](https://www.sentry.com) or give us a call at 800-4SENTRY (800-473-6879) and we'll help you find the information you need.**

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