

Safe... or Sorry?

Take this UL safety quiz and test your electrical brain “power.”

1. To decrease the risk of burn or electrical shock for small children:

- a) Keep small appliances out of reach
- b) Avoid using extension cords when children are present
- c) All of the above

2. To use extension cords safely in your home:

- a) Replace worn extension cords with new ones
- b) Run cords through and around doors and windows, so you won't trip on them.
- c) Duct-tape them to the floor

3. Your chances of receiving a serious shock increase when:

- a) Your hands are wet
- b) You are standing on carpet
- c) There is a lot of static electricity in the air

4. If an electrical outlet is hot to the touch:

- a) Increase the size of the extension cord
- b) Unplug all appliances and make sure an adult (or service person) checks the wire as soon as possible
- c) Wrap it with duct tape

5. If you don't know what size bulb to use in a lamp, you should:

- a) Use a 25-watt bulb
- b) Use a 60-watt bulb
- c) Check with the manufacturer. All UL-listed products are marked with wattage ratings

6. The “UL” mark on a product means:

- a) The product will perform to your expectation
- b) The safety of a sample of the product has been evaluated by UL (Underwriters Laboratories)
- c) The government has tested and approved the product

7. When you need to use a three-pronged plug and only have a two-pronged extension cord, you should:

- a) Break off the third prong
- b) Use the appliance with one prong exposed, keeping your hands dry
- c) Avoid using the appliance until you can buy an appropriate extension cord

8. If you damage an electrical appliance, you should:

- a) Assume it's safe, as long as no electrical parts are exposed
- b) Make sure your parents have it checked by a qualified service center
- c) Duct-tape over any exposed electrical parts

9. The majority of electrocution cases occur in:

- a) Winter
- b) Summer
- c) All seasons

10. If an electrical appliance falls into the water, the first thing to do is:

- a) Unplug it, then have your parents take it to a service center
- b) Call 911, then have your parents take it to a service center
- c) Take it out quickly, and then have your parents take it to a service center

“Safe... or Sorry” Answers:

1. To decrease the risk of burn or electrical shock for children:

- a) Keep small appliances out of reach
- b) Avoid using extension cords when children are present
- c) All of the above

C. These practices will all help decrease the risk of injury to children. Children may see cords as toys and play with them in dangerous ways.

2. To use extension cords safely in your home:

- a) Replace worn extension cords with new ones
- b) Run cords through and around doors and windows, so you won't trip on them.
- c) Duct-tape them to the floor

A. Hiding cords or running them around doors and windows can present a serious fire hazard. It is safer to have a qualified electrician install outlets where you need them.

3. Your chances of receiving a serious shock increase when:

- a) Your hands are wet
- b) You are standing on carpet
- c) There is a lot of static electricity in the air

A. Our skin's natural resistance to electricity is considerably reduced when it is wet.

4. If an electrical outlet is hot to the touch:

- a) Increase the size of the extension cord
- b) Unplug all appliances and make sure an adult (or qualified electrician) checks the wiring as soon as possible
- c) Wrap it with duct-tape

B. If an electrical outlet becomes hot to the touch your parents should contact a qualified electrician.

5. If you don't know what size bulb to use in a lamp, you should:

- a) Use a 25-watt bulb
- b) Use a 60-watt bulb
- c) Check with the manufacturer. All UL- listed products are marked with wattage ratings

C. Check to see if your manufacturer has specified which size bulb to use. All products listed by UL are marked with wattage ratings. If no marking is available, do not use bulbs rated more than 60 watts.

6. The UL mark on a product means:

- a) The product will perform to your expectation
- b) The safety of a sample of the product has been checked by UL (Underwriters Laboratories)
- c) The government has tested and approved the product

B. The UL Mark tells you that representative samples of the product have been tested to UL's rigorous requirements for safety.

7. When you need to use a three-pronged plug and only have a two-pronged extension cord, you should:

- a) Break off the third prong
- b) Use the appliance with one prong exposed, keeping your hands dry
- c) Avoid using the appliance until you have the appropriate extension cord

C. Leaving open the third prong of a plug could expose you and your family to the threat of electric shock.

8. If you damage an electrical appliance, you should:

- a) Assume it's safe, as long as no electrical parts are exposed
- b) Not use it and make sure your parents have it checked by a qualified service center
- c) Duct-tape over any exposed electrical parts

B. Even if it functions normally, damaged appliances should always be checked by a qualified service center. Make sure to remind parents to be wary of older appliances, especially if they are not familiar with their history. Products that have deteriorated or have been previously damaged can present unsuspected hazards.

9. The majority of electrocution cases occur in:

- a) Winter
- b) Summer
- c) All seasons

B. High humidity and outside activities involving water and electricity make summer the time of year when you are most likely to be electrocuted using an appliance.

10. If an electrical appliance falls into the water, the first thing to do is:

- a) Call your parents to unplug it and then take it to a qualified service center
- b) Call 911, then have your parents take it to a qualified service center
- c) Take it out quickly, and then have your parents take it to a qualified service center

A. When an electrical appliance falls into the water, first unplug it. Then, have it checked by a service center to make sure there is no damage that could cause injury.