



OUTLET OVERLOAD DANGER

Every year, U.S. fire departments respond to an estimated **25,900 home electrical fires**.

These fires cause an estimated

- **280 deaths**
- **1,125 injuries**
- **\$1.1 billion in property loss**

Almost 40% of home electrical fires involve outlets and receptacles, and other electrical wiring.

To ensure safety, you should only use about 80% of the available current for each electrical outlet in your home.

Are you overloading outlets?

Use this formula to find out:

WATTAGE/VOLTS=AMPS

Example:

Let's say you are using 2,000 watts of power (for one outlet). Divide the watts by the volts in your home (typically 120), and you come up with 16.6 amps of current being used.

$$2,000/120=16.6$$

With a 20 amp electrical outlet, you are using about 80% of the available current. Most outlets are 15 or 20 amps.

Source: U.S. Fire Administration, Home & Garden



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