

Pacific Power urges consumer caution; Electricity and water don't mix

The large white label tags with bold black and red writing are attached to hair dryers, toasters, radios and other appliances for good reason.

Simply put, electricity and water don't mix. The tags serve as an easy and critical reminder of how dangerous combining these everyday tools with water can be.

People are fatally injured each year as a result of electricity coming into contact with water. Pacific Power wants to remind people of the importance of keeping away from water with common household appliances.

Pacific Power encourages people to be safe when electricity and water are near each other and remember the following tips:

*Never use electrical appliances near a sink, bath or water of any kind.

*Never touch an electric appliance while standing on a wet floor or if your hands are wet.

*Even when an appliance is turned off, electricity is still present within it if plugged in. Therefore, if an appliance falls in water, turn off the circuit breaker immediately then unplug it. Never try to pull it out of the water while it is plugged in.

*If electrical appliances have been under water, contact the product manufacturer for recommendations.

*Do not turn on damaged electrical appliances because the electrical parts can pose an electric shock hazard, overheat, explode or catch on fire.

*Immediately turn off and disconnect an appliance that sparks or stalls.

*Remove any appliances around the sink

and bathtub area. As a precaution, if you have a hair dryer, electric shave or other appliance on a nearby countertop, unplug it when bathing a child as these can easily be knocked over into water.

*Use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) device on all electrical outlets in kitchens, bathrooms or other places near water to shut of power during a short circuit or grounding event in time to prevent serious injury.

*Electrical circuit breakers, fuses, GFCIs, receptacles, plugs, and switches can malfunction when water gets inside. Discard them when they have been submerged.

*When using a wet-dry vacuum cleaner or a pressure washer, follow the manufacturer's instructions to avoid electric shock. Do not allow the power cord connections to become wet.



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- Marianne Williamson -

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