

Electrical Safety

Don't be shocked; be well grounded in Electrical Safety.



ELECTRICAL WORK POLICY

No one, other than maintenance personnel and outside contractors, is permitted to do electrical work on campus. If you have electrical work, that includes simple splicing and attaching plugs, please submit a work order. This policy has been adopted to protect your life and that of others.

STATIC GROUNDING

The following information is for your safety when transferring liquids from plastic containers.

Ignition of materials by static electricity requires five factors:

1. A flammable mixture
2. Charge generation
3. Charge accumulation
4. Electrostatic discharge of sufficient energy
5. An oxidizer

The development and release of electrical energy, and the potential for ignition are difficult to predict under field conditions. The amount of solvent vapor present has a large influence on the ease of ignition.

ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Wet environments can make workplaces dangerous. Please observe the following guidelines:

- Always visually inspect all electrical wiring for breaks and frayed areas.
- Do not use if the wiring appears unsafe.
- Never do your own electrical work; only qualified electricians in the maintenance department are permitted to do electrical work.
- Keep the floors as dry as possible and do not stand in water puddles when working with electrical plug, cords, or equipment.
- Wear shoes/boots that insulate against electrical shock

ELECTRICAL SAFETY INSPECTION CHECKLIST

Take a few minutes and check your area for electrical hazards.

1. All the circuit breakers in the panel(s) are clearly labeled.
2. The circuit breaker panel(s) must have a 3 foot clearance not be obstructed.
3. Ground fault interrupters are used for receptacles where water may be present.
4. All appliances in the lab should have three-wire, grounded cords unless they are double insulated..
5. Test equipment for voltage leaks with an AC-Sensor or other field detecting device.
6. Extension cords should not used for permanent installations.
7. Ensure that extension cords are not a tripping hazard.
8. Make sure electric cords are not worn or frayed.
9. If the grounding terminal is broken on the plug do not use that equipment.

GROUND FAULT INTERRUPTER (GFI) ELECTRICAL RECEPTACLES

All electrical receptacles within 5 feet of a water source (i.e. spigots, water fountains, eyewash stations, etc.) must have a GFI (Ground Fault Interrupter) either at the outlet or at the breaker.

**For more information and/or suggestions contact the
Environmental Safety Compliance Officer (ESCO) at Email
<mailto:umces-safety@umces.edu>**