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Over 90% of Electrical Outlets and Power Strips are not Safeguarded for Children

Power outlets, extension cords and power strips are all hazards for young children. So many people know of the risks with electricity, but many use inferior or unsafe ways of keeping their children safe. Every year over 500 children are electrocuted or shocked each year.

A very popular and inexpensive way to protect toddlers from electrical hazards from outlet is to use outlet plug inserts. However, many professional childproofers choose not these are they are usually very difficult for adults to remove, they are prone to not be reinstalled after the cord has been disconnected, and foremost, they can be a choking hazard. Even though they meet the US Consumer Product Safety Commission guidelines for size requirements for children three years old and under, they have been known to be a choking hazard.

The common misunderstanding with outlets is that if a cord is plugged in, it will stay in. Unfortunately, it does not take much effort for a child to pull the cord out of the outlet. Now the outlet is wide open for a child to put something in the sockets.

Power strips, extension cords and surge protectors have the same risks as outlets, an in many cases, there are many more places for a child to put something in to these receptacles.

SOLUTIONS

- ◆ **Sliding Electrical Cover Plates** – These take the place of the existing cover plates and require sliding cover to be pushed over to allow the plug to be put into the outlet. As soon as the plug is removed, the sliding cover snaps shut preventing a child from gaining access to the outlet.
- ◆ **Box Covers** – These go over the existing cover plate and keep cords plugged in all of the time. This is good for items like computers and wall-switched outlets.
- ◆ **Power Strip Covers** – These cover the entire strip or end of an extension cord, allowing the cord from the wall to go through one end. All of the cords going out to various electrical goods to pass through the top of the cover, thus keeping a child from gaining access to the various outlets in these devices.

The unfortunate thing of this is that people just don't realize how easy it is for a child to get to electricity. It is very easy to prevent electrocutions, but you need to look everywhere a child can get into trouble and use appropriate safeguards.

Louie Delaware, **The Home Safety Guru™**, president and founder of US Safety Pros, LLC is a Certified Child & Home Safety Professional in all aspects of home safety, from childproofing to home safety, radon testing & mitigation along with fire, carbon monoxide and barrier free construction. US Safety Pros has helped safeguard over 700 homes.

For more information about Louie Delaware, go to his web site, www.HomeSafetyGuru.com.

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