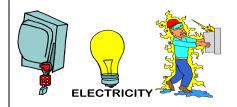
Volume III Issue 6



A five-minute training series for PCOs.



Electrical Safety



Make sure that the plug is properly wired and grounded.

Electricity is invisible energy with the power to kill. We take it for granted as well as the condition of a customer's electrical system. When we find an outside plug, and need electricity for our tools, we use it. We also use our tools everyday and take for granted that the condition of this equipment is the same as yesterday. Both of these assumptions can kill.

You should always check your equipment, especially your electrical equipment, everyday and at each job site to make sure that the cords are not frayed, cut or broken. If the equipment is equipped with an electrical ground plug, is it still in place and functional? All improperly wired or broken ground plugs should be repaired or replaced before use.

Before using the customer's electrical source, you should be certain that their electric receptacles are properly wired and grounded. Often, even electricians miswire receptacles, crossing the hot and neutral wires. Occasionally, the ground wire is broken, missing or just not hooked up.

Usually these conditions have little, if any, effect on the operation of your equipment. However, if you or your equipment comes in contact with water or becomes grounded through you, electrocution is possible.

To minimize the possibility of shock or electrocution, a circuit tester can be used. The device plugs into the socket and indicates the condition of the wiring with a series of three lights.

Use of a circuit tester, like the one shown, and daily inspection of your equipment can save your life as well as your equipment.

