

Things That Don't Go Together



So your daughter just brought home her boyfriend from college and to say the least, you are not impressed. As you endure a weekend of having him around, you can't help but think, "These two just don't go together!" and quite frankly, no one will ever be good enough for your daughter (but that's another story).

So, as you head to the basement to escape his laugh that grates on every nerve, you step into a pool of water on the bottom step. Yup, your basement has water flowing in like you were filling up a bathtub. Welcome to Spring in Minnesota!

And, just as you can't help but think your daughter should not be dating this guy, the same goes for the water in your basement with all of your electrical appliances. "These two just don't go together!"

So, if you find yourself in this predicament, know these safe actions.

1. Be aware that submerged outlets or electrical cords may energize standing water. Do not enter a flooded area until it has been determined safe by a professional.
2. Do not touch a circuit breaker or replace a fuse with wet hands or while standing on a wet surface.
3. Have an electrician inspect electrical appliances that have been wet, and do not turn on or plug in appliances unless an electrician tells you it is safe. A trained professional may be able to recondition some devices while others will require replacement.
 - All electrical equipment, panels, switchgear, motor control centers, boilers and boiler controls, electric motors, transformers, receptacles, switches, light fixtures, electric heaters and appliances such as water heaters, ovens, ranges, and dishwashers that have been submerged need to be replaced or repaired by the original manufacturer or an approved representative.
 - Electrical wiring may require replacement depending on the type of wire or cable and the extent of the damage.
4. All breakers, fuses, disconnect switches, GFCIs, Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters, and surge protective devices that have been submerged must be replaced. There is no method of insuring these life safety devices will operate as intended when they are exposed to water.
5. To reduce the risk of shock from using electrical appliances in wet locations, ensure your wet/dry vacuum or other equipment is plugged into an outlet that uses a ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI).
6. If your home experienced flooding, and depending to what extent, keep the power off until an electrician has inspected your system for safety.



As for the boyfriend. . . trust you raised your daughter to come to her senses sooner than later. And if not, welcome him into the family with arms wide open!