

SAFETY BASICS IN APPLIANCE REPAIR

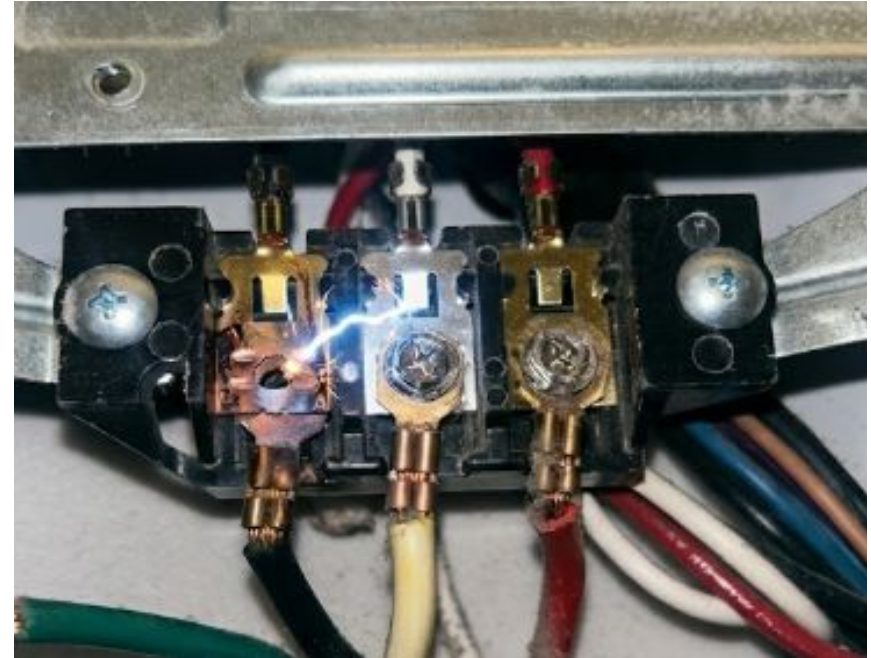
Safety Basics

- Electrical Verification & De-Energization
- Personal Protection & Attire Standards
- Workspace Logistics & Safe Egress
- Property & Customer Protection
- Job Site Control & Hazard Mitigation
- Emergency Preparedness



Electricity

- Follows all paths to ground, including you.
- Takes only 50-100 mA of current to be lethal.
- Confirm power to the unit is removed before touching or removing electrical connections.
- Use voltmeter to confirm no voltage is present if the unit is hardwired.
 - Breaker could have failed or been mislabeled.
- If a wire is grounded to the chassis, the whole cabinet could be energized.



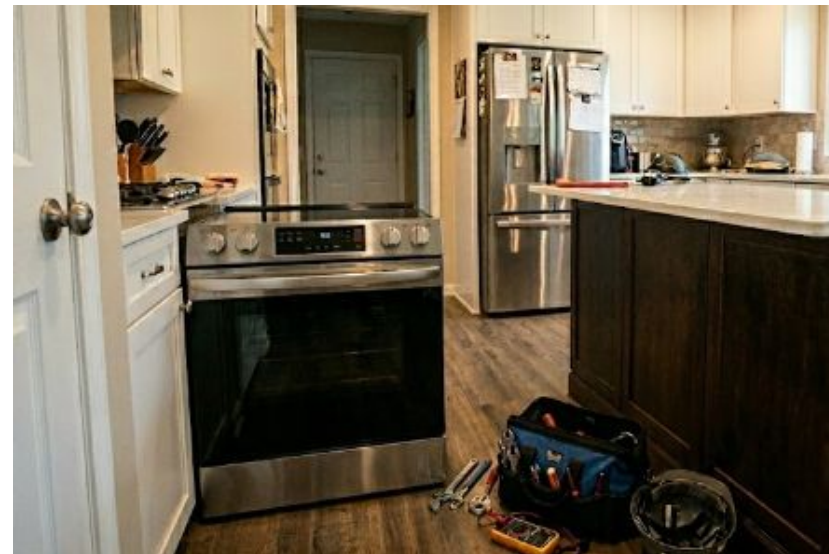
Jewelry

- Jewelry can conduct electricity.
- It can also get snagged in tight places.
- Can scratch or damage the appliance, or the jewelry itself.
- Can short out electronic controls.
- Can cause chemical burns if chemicals get trapped underneath.



Quick Egress

- Avoid climbing over an appliance to get behind it.
 - You could damage the appliance.
- Always position the appliance in a manner that affords you quick escape in case of emergency.
 - Electrical arcing.
 - Fire.
- Be mindful of the wiring and the tubing when working behind an appliance while working back there, and **BEFORE** you start to move an appliance.



Personal Protective Equipment

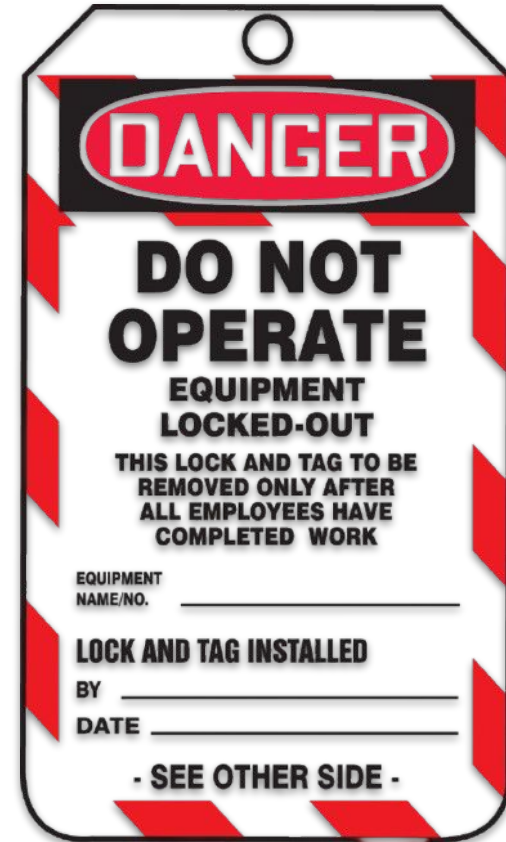
- Many appliances have very sharp surfaces when you start taking them apart.
- Be cautious of sharp edges. Gloves can protect from cuts.
- Appliances are heavy and sometimes they drop, or you use your feet to position them. Steel toed boots can save your toes.



Leaving in Non-Functional State

When you leave an appliance while awaiting parts:

- Advise the customer to not use the appliance.
- Leave the power, water and/or gas disconnected.
- DO NOT leave the unit in an unassembled state.
 - Pets, kids or roommates might injure themselves.
- Print out a Lock-Out Label with your company name and number on it, and tape it to the appliance.



Protecting Customer Assets

- Wear shoe covers to keep the customer's floors clean.
- Use a blanket (like a mover's blanket) to place parts on to prevent scratching or dirtying the work space.
- Use a tool mat to place your tools on to prevent scratching or damaging the counter tops.



Large Item Placement

- Place large items that could fall in a secure location, out of the way.
- Be sure it's not prone to falling or tipping over.
- Avoid placing it somewhere the customer might wander by.



Locate the Breaker Box

Even if you don't plan to cut power to an appliance, or if the unit has a power cord that plugs into the wall, it's always best to know where the breaker box is located in case of an emergency.

And if there is a Fire Extinguisher, it's best to know where that is as well.

Consider if there is a loose connection in the outlet on the appliance you're working on, and it starts to smoke while you're there.



Customer Safety

Customers sometimes want to be involved, but the work we do has inherent dangers involved.

You can often position your tools as a barrier to make it difficult for the customer to encroach in your work space.

Remember, if there is a spark or an emergency, you don't want the customer blocking your or their path of egress.



Customer Safety

Some customers will want to help when they see you moving a heavy appliance.

You have the skills necessary to move an appliance safely. Do not allow a customer to help you move or lift an appliance, as they could injure themselves during the process.

They are, however, generally responsible for moving other large items that are in the way of you accessing the appliance.



Animal Safety

Animal's inherent curiosity can put them and us in dangerous situations.

When we have an appliance disassembled, it may have sharp surfaces or even live voltage present. Pets do not know these dangers are present.

Politely ask the customer to keep their pets away from your workspace for their safety and yours.



Summary

While this was a high level overview, we discussed some of the major safety aspects to being an appliance repair technician.

- Voltage can be lethal if not handled properly. As little as 50 mA can prove fatal.
- Customers and Pets often are not aware of the dangers of what we do. We need to account for them when considering safety while with the unit, and while away from the unit (such as when awaiting parts to arrive).
- Always know your path of egress in case of an emergency, and keep your exit path clear of debris or obstructions.