

# Underloaded Brains, Overloaded Circuits!

**M**arvin, Marvin, Marvin. You and D-Wayne must be dumber than a box of rocks! Even if time travel were possible, which it isn't, at least not yet, you'd need a lot more power than provided by a single outlet in your garage.

That puny little plug probably can't even handle the Christmas lights you put outside for the holidays. And look how your cord has a dangerous worn spot in it. Don't you know that overloaded plugs spell D-A-N-G-E-R?

Never overload your electric circuits by trying to draw too much electricity from an electric plug. Overloaded circuits get hot and blow fuses—if you're lucky. When a fuse blows and your house lights go out, it's a sign of danger. The line has either been overloaded, or there's a break in the wires somewhere in the line, in an appliance cord, a switch, or inside the wall.

In the worst case, an overloaded circuit can cause a fire.



Kids, take a look at the overloaded plug pictured above. If you see anything like this around your house, tell your parents that they might be risking overloaded circuits just like Marvin and D-Wayne. If your house doesn't have enough electric outlets, your parents should hire a certified electrician to install more. That's the smart way to be safe.

Cartoonist Keith Graves is a popular artist and author of children's books. Among his greatest hits are *Frank Was a Monster Who Wanted to Dance*, *Uncle Blubbafink's Seriously Ridiculous Stories* and *Loretta: Ace Pinky Scout*. He lives in Austin with his wife, Nancy, and the twins, Max and Emma.

