

# SAFETY SENSE

## Avoid Electric Shock With Weatherproof Receptacle Covers

(NAPSA)—Whether you've installed a low-voltage lighting system that needs electricity or you simply like to power your weed whacker on the weekends, the solution to safely plugging into an outdoor electrical outlet is much the same.

The best strategy is to install a "while-in-use" weatherproof receptacle cover on your outdoor outlets—to protect your home and family members from electric shock. What's more, a 2002 revision to the National Electric Code makes these outlet covers a requirement in all residential applications and most commercial applications.

"Everyone knows that moisture and outdoor electrical outlets don't mix," says Bruce Oellerich of Intermatic Inc., a manufacturer of energy controls and home safety and security products. "But not everyone knows that they should have weatherproof receptacle covers to protect electrical equipment that's plugged into outdoor electrical receptacles during inclement weather."

Moisture seeping into the receptacle can increase the risk of electrical shock for anyone who touches the connection. A weatherproof receptacle cover is an effective and worry-free way to protect outdoor electrical connections from rain and snow.

Easy to install, a weatherproof receptacle includes a plastic cover, base, gasket and mounting hardware along with inserts that enable the device to be used with either a standard duplex, decorator style or GFCI (ground fault circuit interrupter) receptacle.

Intermatic's models are available with clear covers. The advantage of a clear cover is that it allows the user to see the plug before opening the cover and determine if flying insects have built a nest inside.

In addition, a new die-cast metal cover intended for use in high-



**Weatherproof receptacle covers help reduce the risk of electrical shock from outdoor outlets that may be wet.**

abuse areas such as schools is now offered. These lockable models feature a 3 $\frac{1}{8}$ " deep cover that accommodates both large and small plugs. Moisture is prevented from entering the receptacle, because the receptacle cover and gasket completely enclose both the plug and receptacle. Users can plug one or two power cords into the cover at once; the cords exit at the bottom of the unit.

Weatherproof receptacle covers can be obtained at hardware stores, home centers, discount outlets and full-service garden supply stores. A wide variety of models are available, including jumbo size receptacle covers that accommodate extra-large plugs or transformers. When comparing models, make sure the one you choose meets the National Electrical Code requirements and is UL listed and NEMA 3R rated.

For additional information about weatherproof receptacle covers, contact: Intermatic Inc., Intermatic Plaza, Spring Grove, IL 60081-9698. E-mail address: [intermatic@intermatic.com](mailto:intermatic@intermatic.com). Web site: [www.intermatic.com](http://www.intermatic.com).