

Hazards associated with Cleaning Products used with electrical devices

As businesses and individuals work to keep high touch areas clean and disinfected in preventing the spread of germs, ESA has become aware that there have been reported light switch failures, caused by spraying cleaning or sanitizing liquid directly onto the switches.

Examples of damaged/deteriorated light switches as a result of spraying cleaning liquids



Picture 1, Damage due to Arcing



Picture 2, Deterioration Damage to Switch

Electrical equipment such as light switches and receptacles installed indoors are not designed to be subjected to direct streams of liquids. Additionally, the chemicals of the cleaning agents, when applied in significant quantities, can lead to failure of these devices which may result in arcing or other deterioration and may cause potential electrical fires or shock hazards.

Direction:

Caution shall be exercised around electrical devices, such as switches and receptacles, installed indoors while using cleaning or sanitization liquids either by spraying or other means. If there are any signs of arcing or deterioration of electrical devices, repair or replacement is required to avoid any potential hazards. Other means could be considered to reduce the chances of future occurrences, such as replacing the devices with motion or touch free products.