



Electrical Safety Alert



Apple Power Adapter Breaks in Outlet When Unplugged

Lessons Learned

- Inspect your plug-connected equipment before each use.
- Be attentive to equipment condition as you unplug. Equipment that fails while plugged in can present shock hazards!

What Happened

The Apple power adapter pictured below was powering an Apple (Mac) laptop, plugged in to a 120-Volt outlet. When the user, a Network Engineer, attempted to unplug the power adapter from the outlet, the blade in the “hot” side of the outlet broke free of the power adapter and remained in the outlet.

This condition presented a serious shock hazard to the user. Had he not been attentive to the equipment condition, a serious injury could have occurred. While this incident occurred at home, the proliferation of Apple-branded products encouraged the Network Engineer to share the experience with co-workers.



Broken Blade in “Hot” side of outlet
SERIOUS SHOCK HAZARD!

What You Can Do



Power Adapter With Broken Blade



Original Condition of Power Adapter



UL-Recognized symbol indicates acceptance as a component for use in an overall product



Genuine Volex APC7D Wall Adapter

Perform a visual inspection of your plug-connected equipment before each use, per Section 5.4.4 of the Electrical Safety Manual. Look for cracks in the plastic, loose parts, and deformed or missing pins. In the case of the Apple-branded power adapter pictured here, both blades should move simultaneously. If the blades move independently, the adapter needs to be replaced.

The power adapter may be replaced as a whole, or the wall adapter portion (Volex APC7D) can be replaced. Genuine Apple-branded products are recommended to avoid counterfeit products. Any replacement product for use at LBNL must have NRTL listing or recognition.

DO NOT attempt to remove a broken device from an outlet! Call a Qualified Electrical Worker (QEW) to assist in removal and repair or replacement of damaged equipment.