

# Repairing electric kettles can prove disastrous

Never attempt to repair an electric kettle. The consequences could be disastrous!

Repairing an electric kettle that has stopped working or is performing inadequately such as insufficient boiling is a job for qualified service personnel.

CSA is issuing this advice to consumers in connection with its Audits and Investigations Department's investigations of fires caused by electric kettles which were repaired by unqualified individuals.

These investigations have shown that problems usually result when a kettle's thermostat(s) is removed or bypassed. This type of "repair" is also performed when the "one-shot" back-up temperature control, provided on some kettles, has opened.

If a kettle which is missing the regulating thermostat and backup "one-shot" control is allowed to boil dry, a fire could soon erupt. Without the presence of water to absorb the uncontrolled heat from the element, a kettle with a plastic top could burst into flames in less than five minutes. Under the same conditions, a metal kettle could ignite the counter top and other flammable materials around it.

CSA is concerned about a similar fire hazard related to improper use of electric kettles equipped with an "on/off" switch on the handle. These kettles are designed to shut off

automatically when the thermostat senses the water has reached a predetermined temperature.

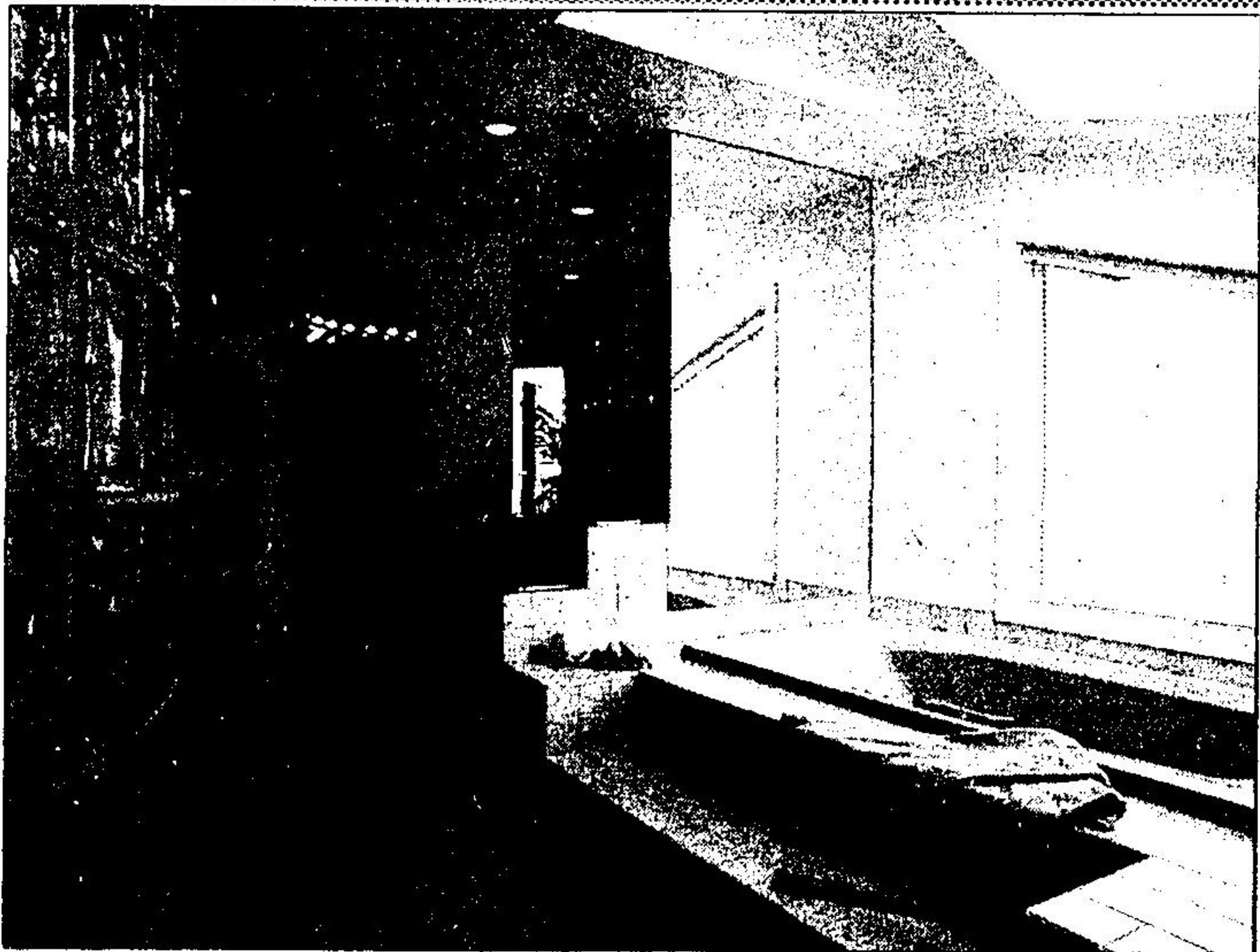
Users who tape these kettles' "on/off" control switch in the "on" position risk overheating and fire if the kettle boils dry because they are preventing the thermostat from turning off the unit after the boiling cycle.

Malfunctioning electric kettles should be taken to an authorized repair shop for attention. Kettle retailers and manufacturers may be able to help consumers locate such a repair shop.

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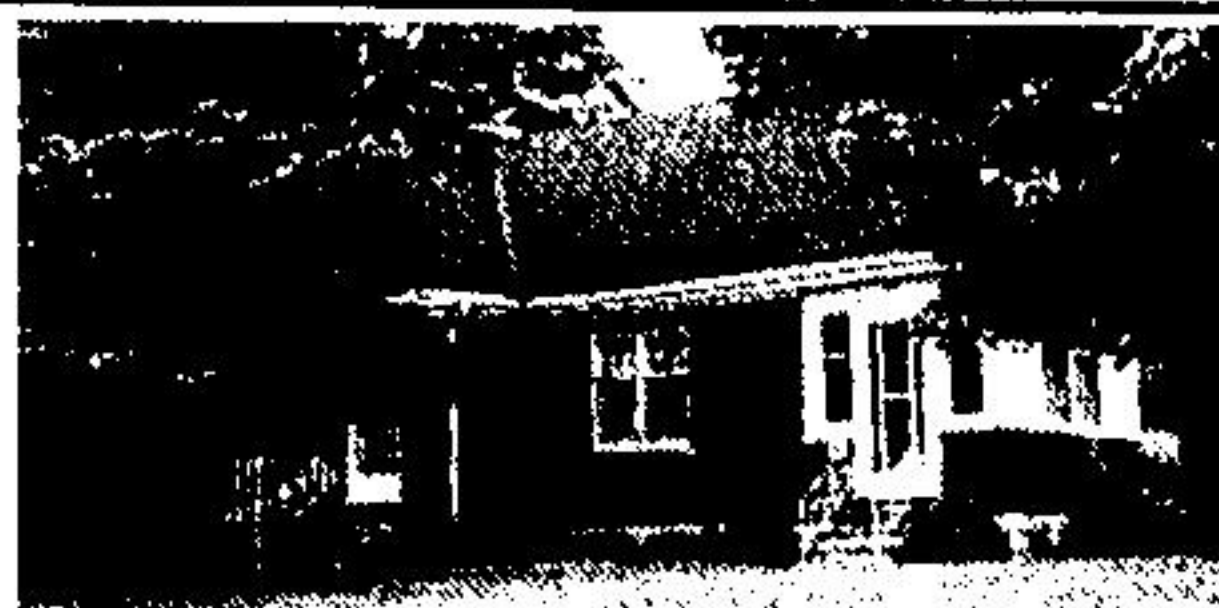
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