

Extension Cord Safety

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The use of extension cords in the workplace is an important element of electrical safety that employers and employees need to consider. One of the most important things to remember is that an extension cord is meant for temporary use. General Industry defines temporary as 90 days. Install permanent wiring in conduit when usage is no longer temporary.

Let's review a list of *Do's & Do Not's* when using extension cords.

Do Not:

- Use an indoor extension cord outdoors.
- Overload cords with more than the proper electrical load.
- Run cords through doorways, holes in ceiling, walls or floors.
- Move, bend, or modify any of the cord plug's metal parts.
- Daisy chain, or connect, multiple power strips together.
- Force a plug into an outlet.
- Use cord where it is wet.
- Cover with anything other than a cord protector.
- Drive over or drag cord.
- Hang cord with nails or staples.

Do's:

- Inspect cord for physical damage before use.
- Check wattage rating on the appliance or tool that will use the cord.
- Make sure the cord bears the mark of an independent testing laboratory such as UL.
- Use GFCI protection when using cord in wet or damp areas.
- Pull the plug, not the cord, when removing from the outlet.
- Unplug cords when not in use.
- Use cord protectors if a cord must lay across an aisle way.
- Keep slack in cord to prevent tension on the electrical terminals.

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