



Extension Cords Safety Fact Sheet

Do

- Do inspect an extension cord for physical damage before use.
- Do check the wattage rating on the appliance or tool that the extension cord will be used with; do not use an extension cord that has a lower rating.
- Do make sure all equipment and extension cords bear the mark of an independent testing laboratory such as UL (Underwriter's Laboratories).
- Do make sure the plug on an extension cord is fully inserted in the outlet.
- Do replace an outlet if a plug is too loose in the outlet.
- Do match up the plug and extension cord on a polarized cord (one hole on the plug is larger than the other).
- Do keep extension cords away from water.
- Do use GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) protection when using extension cords in wet or damp environments.
- Do keep extension cords away from children and animals.
- Do pull on the plug, not the cord when removing an extension cord from the outlet.
- Do store extension cords indoors.
- Do unplug extension cords when not in use.
- Do keep slack in flexible extension cords to prevent tension on electrical terminals.
- Do put safety covers on the unused receptacle outlets on extension cords.

Don't

- Don't use an extension cord marked for indoor use outdoors.
- Don't plug one extension cord into another.
- Don't overload cords with more than the proper electrical load.
- Don't run extension cords through doorways, holes in ceilings, walls, or floors.
- Don't move, bend, or modify any of the metal parts of the extension cord plug.
- Don't plug a three-prong into a two-hole extension cord.
- Don't force a plug into an outlet.
- Don't use an extension cord when it is wet.
- Don't overheat an extension cord.
- Don't cover an extension cord with anything.
- Don't drive over an extension cord.
- Don't drag an extension cord.
- Don't attach extension cords to the wall with nails or staples.
- Don't run extension cords under rugs or carpets or in high traffic areas.

