

EXTENSION CORD SAFETY

We need to consider an important element of electrical safety in the workplace— safe use of extension cords. The most important thing to remember is that extension cords are for **temporary use** only. Permanent wiring needs to be installed when use is no longer temporary.

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 pull on the plug, not the cord when removing an extension cord from the outlet.
- Do unplug extension cords when not in use.
- Do keep slack in flexible extension cords to prevent tension on electrical terminals.

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 drive over an extension cord.
- Don't drag an extension cord.
- Don't attach extension cords to the wall with nails or staples.

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