



Extension Cord Safety Tips

Proper selection, use, and maintenance of extension cords is critical to avoiding injuries and fires. Following a few simple safety guidelines can prevent potentially dangerous mistakes with extension cords this holiday season:

Safety Tips

- Extension cords are meant to provide a temporary solution and should not be used as a long-term or permanent electrical circuit.
- Purchase cords from authorized retailers and check to see that they have been approved by a nationally recognized testing laboratory.
- Select a cord that is long enough to meet your needs. Never attempt to extend the length of an extension cord by connecting it with another extension cord.
- Never use a cord that feels hot or is damaged in any way. Touching even a single exposed strand can result in an electric shock or burn.
- Make sure the extension cord you use is rated for the products to be plugged in and is marked for either indoor or outdoor use.
- Examine extension cords before each use. Cracked, frayed, or otherwise damaged cords should be replaced immediately.
- Unplug and safely store after every use. Store cords indoors to keep them protected from damage caused by water and excessive heat.
- Do not place extension cords in high traffic areas, under carpets or across walkways where they pose a potential tripping hazard.
- Do not allow extension cords to dangle from counters or tables, where someone could accidentally pull them down or trip over them.
- Do not run extension cords through walls, or across doorways, ceilings or floors. This may cause the cord to overheat, creating a serious fire hazard.
- Cover unused outlets on the extension cord to prevent children from making contact with a live circuit.

Outdoor Safety Tips

- When working outdoors, use only weather-resistant, heavy gauge extension cords marked “for outdoor use.” These cords have added safeguards designed to withstand the outdoor environment.
- Keep all outdoor extension cords and light strands clear of snow and standing water, and well-protected from the elements.
- When using electricity outdoors, always plug extension cords into GFCI-protected outlets.

Visit www.holidaysafety.org for more tips and tools to help keep you safe this season.