

# EXTENSION CORD SAFETY

Safety Topic V6-0366

Electrical

Extension cords are common and convenient, but when used without proper safety precautions they can become fire hazards and pose risks to worker safety.

- Inspect extension cords for physical damage before use. Check for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wire, missing grounding prongs, and loose connections. Discard damaged extension cords.

**OSHA Standard 1926.416(e)** *Worn or frayed electric cords or cables shall not be used.*

- Never remove the grounding pin on an extension cord plug to try to fit it into a two-prong outlet.
- Do not use indoor extension cords on outdoor projects.
- Fully insert the extension cord plug into the outlet.
- Do not secure extension cords to surfaces with staples or nails.
- If any extension cord in use begins to feel hot to the touch, remove it from service immediately.
- Ensure extension cords are not routed through puddles, standing water or snow.
- Do not plug or unplug an extension cord while your hands are wet.
- Use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) to protect against any electrical fault.
- Do not use multiple extension cords connected together, use a longer extension cord instead.
- Store extension cords indoors when not in use.
- When disconnecting an extension cord from a power outlet pull the plug, don't yank on the cord.
- Keep extension cords away from foot traffic to prevent tripping and cord damage.



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## Discussion

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***How often are you inspecting the extension cords you are using?***

***Can you think of any additional extension cord safety precautions?***