EXTENSION CORD SAFETY

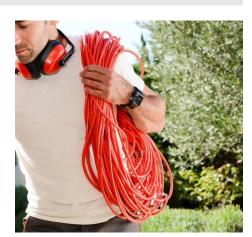
Safety Topic V6-0366 Electrical

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.

Discussion -

Image: 0000901 JP WALLET/Shutterstock.com

How often are you inspecting the extension cords you are using? Can you think of any additional extension cord safety precautions?

