

Extension Cords

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Electrical hazards are an area of major safety concerns in construction and account for a large number of injuries and fatalities. Extension cords and GFCIs (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters) can be found on any construction site and remembering a few safety tips can help prevent serious injuries from happening.

OSHA Standard 1926.416(a)(1) states that *no employer shall permit an employee to work in such proximity to any part of an electric power circuit that the employee could contact the electric power circuit in the course of work, unless the employee is protected against electric shock by deenergizing the circuit and grounding it or by guarding it effectively by insulation or other means.*

Never take electricity for granted! No matter how small the job, always use safe work practices, especially when using electrical tools and equipment.

OSHA Standard 1926.405(a)(2)(ii)(J) *Extension cord sets used with portable electric tools and appliances shall be of **three-wire type** and shall be designed for **hard or extra-hard usage**. Flexible cords used with temporary and portable lights shall be designed for hard or extra-hard usage. ... Some examples include types SJ, SJO, SJT, SJTO.*

- Always inspect your electrical tools and extension cords before use.
- Never use extension cords that have broken or missing ground pins – these are there for your safety!
- Use only properly rated extension cords for a construction site.
- Never run cords through windows or doors where they could be pinched or damaged.
- Remove frayed, damaged, or severely kinked extension cords from use immediately.

OSHA Standard 1926.405(a)(2)(ii)(I) *Flexible cords and cables shall be protected from damage. Sharp corners and projections shall be avoided. Flexible cords and cables may pass through doorways or other pinch points, if protection is provided to avoid damage.*

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