

WEEKLY TOOLBOX TALK: EXTENSION CORDS

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MAREK

Volume XXIX

Number 05

January 29, 2018

Even a simple extension cord needs to be looked after. It's a shock or fire hazard when deteriorated, worn-out or used improperly.

Three-wire cords are for outdoor appliances and electric power tools. The third wire is a ground. Never plug these cords into an ungrounded electrical outlet.

Don't disconnect an extension cord by pulling the cord. Remove it by the plug; otherwise the end frays and loosens.

Most industrial purposes require cords specified for either hard usage or extra hard usage. The word "outdoor" on the cord or the letters "WA" on the jacket identify approved cords.

Gauge size, strength, flexibility and ability to withstand chemicals determine a cord's suitability. Here are more extension cord safety tips: Protect flexible cords and cables from physical damage. Also check regularly for cut, broken or cracked insulation.

If cords pose a hazard, discard and replace. Electrical cords can become tripping hazards. Don't run them through doorways, walls, windows, ceilings or floors. An extension cord should not run thru an open window/door unless is protected from being smashed or cut. Company policy states that all employees using electrical equipment or tools of any kind will be required to use company approved GFCI or three ways.

Avoid plugging two cords together to make a longer one. Extension cords that are connected or too long will reduce operating voltage and efficiency of tools or appliances, perhaps damaging motors. Even with proper care, extension cords can become damaged. Don't take shortcuts or chances with electrical safety, and don't rely on unsafe practices such as unauthorized "repairs" of electrical cords.

REMEMBER!!!! Protect yourself and others from electrical fires and electrical shock by looking after even a simple extension cord.

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safety

Toolbox Talk:

Electrical Cords