



EXTENSION CORDS

Even a simple extension cord needs to be properly maintained. It can become a shock or fire hazard when it is deteriorated, worn out, or used improperly.

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

Do not disconnect an extension cord by pulling on the cord. Remove it by pulling the plug; otherwise, the end can fray and loosen.

Most industrial applications 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 resistance to chemicals determine a cord’s suitability.

Here are more extension cord safety tips:

Protect flexible cords and cables from physical damage. Also, check them regularly for cut, broken, or cracked insulation. If cords pose a hazard, discard and replace them.

Electrical cords can become tripping hazards. Do not run them through doorways, walls, windows, ceilings, or floors. An extension cord should not run through an open window or door unless it is protected from being smashed or cut. Company policy states that all employees using electrical equipment or tools of any kind are required to use company-approved GFCI protection or three-prong plugs.

Avoid plugging two cords together to make a longer one. Extension cords that are connected together or too long can reduce the operating voltage and efficiency of tools or appliances, possibly damaging motors.

Even with proper care, extension cords can become damaged. Do not take shortcuts or chances with electrical safety, and do not rely on unsafe practices such as unauthorized “repairs” of electrical cords.

REMEMBER: Protect yourself and others from electrical fires and electrical shock by properly maintaining even a simple extension cord.