

# Safe Extension Cord Safety

For something so widely used, extension cords can cause a shocking amount of destruction, even death, if not used properly. Exposed wiring, missing ground prongs, bad placement, and daisy chaining are all common mistakes when using extension cords. These common mistakes can have disastrous consequences, resulting in electrocution and/or OSHA citations.

## How to Avoid Unsafe Cords

When the jacketing of an extension cord is damaged or a ground plug is missing, employees are exposed a dangerous electrical hazard. Even something as simple as using household-grade cords at work creates a hazardous condition.

Ways to protect yourself around extension cords include:

- Don't connect (daisy chain) cords to extend length.
- Protect cords from damage by avoiding sharp corners and projections\*
- Provide protection (e.g., a door jamb) when passing flexible cords through doorways or pinch points.\*
- Avoid trip hazards, inspect cords prior to working, and never use them if they're damaged.\*\*
- Only use properly rated extension cords for the job.



*\*per OSHA Regulation 1926.405(a)(2)(ii)(I) \*\*per OSHA Regulation 1926.334(a)(2)(i)*

## Safe Use and Repair



All employees who use, see, or are in the proximity of extension cords must be trained on extension cord safety—and electrical safety in general. They must know the correct way to use extension cords and how to recognize an unsafe cord or cord setup.

However, only qualified electricians who are trained to fix extension cords may repair a damaged cord.

This includes:

- Repairing the jacketing
- Replacing the ground prong
- Removing sections of the extension cord

