

## Electrical extension cord safety

### Introduction:

Extension cords are commonly used without thinking about the potential risks involved. Please be aware that use of extension cords can be dangerous and safe work practices are necessary to prevent accidents and injuries

### Two types of extension cords:

- **Two wire** extension cords are used for small appliances and should not be used in here.
- **Three-wire**, grounded extension cords are much safer and are to be used with power tools and for other temporary applications.

Extension cords are not intended to be used in place of permanent wiring, so notify your supervisor if you need additional outlets.

### Inspection, use and care:

- Select extension cords that are rated for the electrical load and type of use, such as indoor vs. outdoor.
- Check cords regularly for cracks, tears, exposed wires, missing ground plugs, etc.
- Do not place cords under carpets or furniture and never string them through doorways, walls, windows, ceilings or floors.
- Do not fasten an extension cord to a wall—even though staples are sold for this purpose.
- Do not “daisy chain” extension cords together. Use one cord that’s long enough to do the job.

- Never pull on the cord to disconnect it; instead remove it by the plug.
- Store cords safely when not in use.

### Repairs:

Cord insulation and plugs are the primary protection against electrical shock. Both must remain in good condition at all times.

- Only a qualified person should make repairs on a cord. Wrapping the damaged section with electrical tape is not “repairing” the cord.
- Take damaged cords out of service, tag it for repair or replacement and advise your supervisor. New cords are available.
- When discarding a bad cord, cut the cord into several pieces to render it useless.

### Trips and Falls:

Serious injury can result from tripping over an extension cord.

- Do not lay cords on the floor, in walkways, etc. Use good housekeeping to keep extension cords from becoming tripping hazards.
- Notify your supervisor if you need anything to help keep cords off the floor.

### In conclusion:

Don’t risk your safety or the safety of others by using damaged extension cords or by using extension cords improperly.