



Extension Cords

Extension cords are useful in many household wiring situations. However, it is easy to make mistakes with extension cords that could result in dangerous situations. Practice following these tips to safely use extension cords to minimize hazards.

Do:

- Only use extension cords that have been approved by an independent testing laboratory.
- Use a cord designed to power the amount of wattage for the device you are using. The gauge indicates the cord's size (smaller number means larger cord and more current it can handle).
- Store indoors.
- Unplug when not in use, and unplug while holding the plug, not the cord.
- Throw away if damaged (frayed, exposed wires, etc).
- Use temporarily.

Do Not:

- Remove an extension cord's grounding pin.
- Use an indoor cord outdoors.
- Plug multiple cords together.
- Bend or coil when in use.
- Power more than one appliance with one extension cord.
- Use for permanent wiring.
- Run under rugs and/or furniture.
- Fasten cord to surfaces using tape, staples, or nails.

Resources

[8 Things Never to do With an Extension Cord](#)

[ESFI Extension Cord Safety Tips](#)



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Don't learn safety by accident