



## Extension Cords

Many people use extension cords for everyday household appliances, and even more frequently during the holidays. In order to reduce the risk of hazards, it is important to learn how different amperages of extension cords are intended for different things. These tips will help you gain knowledge of how to safely use extension cords.



### Safety Tips

- Ensure that the extension cord you are using is appropriate for the power of the appliance you are using it with.
- An extension cord is not safe to use if it has not been certified by UL, CSA, or ETL.
- Read the manufacture's guide so you can be sure what the extension cord is intended for, and how to safely use it.

### How to Choose the Right Extension Cord

- Lamp—16 gauge
- Laptop—14 gauge
- Vacuum—16 gauge
- Holiday lights—16 gauge for up to 25 feet.  
14 gauge for over 25 feet.

### Items Not Safe to Use With an Extension Cord:

- Space heater
- Hair Dryer
- Heat-producing appliances (toaster, iron, coffee pot)

### Resources

[Electricity Facts](#)

[Extension Cord Safety Tips](#)

[How to Choose the Right Extension Cord](#)

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**Don't learn safety by accident**