



About Those Cords...

Extension cords are so common around the house that we barely notice them anymore, but we should. Here are some safety tips to remember.

- Purchase extension cords that bear the safety mark of a testing lab.
- Don't use extension cords as long-term or permanent electric circuits.
- Never staple or nail down an extension cord.
- Don't use extension cords with high wattage appliances that exceed the capacity of the cord, pair the correct extension cord with the appliance.
- Inspect extension cords before use for cracking, fraying, or other damage and discard if damaged.
- Use heavy-gauge weather-resistant extension cords that are labeled for outdoor use if you're working outside.
- Keep outdoor extension cords well protected from the elements and out of standing water.
- Don't plug an extension cord into an outlet with wet hands or if the outlet or plug is wet.
- Don't file or cut the extension cord's plug blades or grounding prong to fit into an old outlet. Make sure the plug is fully inserted into the outlet.
- Use the covers supplied on an extension for unused outlets.
- Don't run extension cords under furniture or carpeting, behind baseboards, or through doorways, windows or holes in walls.
- Keep extension cords out of high traffic areas and away from children and animals.
- When you're no longer using an extension cord, unplug it and store it indoors.