

What's the Risk?

Extension Cords

Introduction

Extension cords are intended to supply electrical power for the temporary use of appliances, power tools or electronic equipment. The use of extension cords should never be considered a substitute for permanent wiring.



What's the Risk?

The improper use of extension cords may create an unnecessary shock and/or electrocution hazard and may result in a fire hazard on your property. Using an extension cord with a undersized wire gauge may cause over heating and premature failure of the extension cord. Also, an extension cord may enable the use of an appliance in an area it was not intended to be used thereby increasing the risk of fire or other damage.

What can be done?

Ensure extension cords are approved by an accredited testing agency such as Underwriters Laboratories (UL) or Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and is approved for intended use. Some extension cords are approved for indoor and outdoor use while others are only for indoor use.

When there is no receptacle available where power is regularly required, contact an electrical contractor and have them install one. When using portable power equipment always follow the manufacturer's recommendations for selecting an extension cord.

Remember to:

- use the shortest extension cord possible,
- ensure the cord is in good safe working condition.
- never cut off the grounding pin
- route the cord so it will not be exposed to vehicular traffic, concealed in any way, or be otherwise susceptible to damage.
- always disconnect the extension cord when not in use and store it safely for future use.

