



# EHS Fact Sheet

## Extension Cords and Surge Protectors

### Introduction

Extension cords and surge protectors are estimated to cause 4,000 injuries per year. These injuries can occur from a number of problems, these injuries include; tripping over cords, fire related injuries and even fractures and contusions.

Many of these injuries boil down to one problem- extension cords and surge protectors are often used as permanent means of wiring. These items are meant for temporary use only and pose a threat when used incorrectly.

### Do's

- Do inspect extension cords and surge protectors before use.
- Do unplug extension cords when not in use.
- Do ensure that your extension cords and surge protectors are tested and rated by a national testing laboratory.
- Do dispose of any extension cord or surge protector that is worn or frayed.
- Do keep extension cords and surge protectors away from water.



### Don'ts

- Don't plug one extension cord or surge protector into another.
- Don't feed extension cords or surge protectors through walls, holes in ceilings, or floors.
- Don't modify extension cords or surge protectors.
- Don't use extension cords or surge protectors when wet.
- Don't cover or run extension cords or surge protectors through high traffic areas.
- Don't drag extension cords.
- Don't permanently attach surge protectors to buildings, tables or work benches.
- Don't use surge protectors for amounts above which they are rated.