



# EHS Fact Sheet

## Electrical Safety – Daisy Chaining

### Introduction

“Daisy chaining” is the connection of two or more extension cords or power strips. Daisy chaining is usually a result of inadequate access to power outlets and can lead to overloaded circuits and fire risk. Most power strips are able to power multiple items, however, when power strips are connected, the strip connected to the outlet is providing much more power than the approved amount. Extension cords are meant to be used as temporary wiring but often become permanent and in turn become a fire hazard.

Daisy chaining accounts for a number of OSHA violations, but more importantly, they contribute to a large number of electrical fires. By learning a few “Do’s” and “Don’ts” of daisy chaining, you can help prevent many unnecessary injuries and deaths.

### Do’s

- Use longer extension cords to replace multiple extension cords/power strips.
- If possible, rearrange desks, workstations and equipment to an area with a power outlet.
- Check the condition of extension cords and power strips to be sure they are ready for use.
- Ensure that power strips and surge protectors are equipped with internal fuses.
- Have an adequate number of outlets installed when power outlets are scarce.

### Don'ts

- Do not overload power strips or power outlets, this can result in a fire or could cause the circuit breaker to trip.
- Avoid using long extension cords to power a surge protector or power strips. The increased length also increases electrical resistance and generates more heat.
- Do not use an extension cord for longer than 90 days. At this point, the wiring is no longer temporary.
- Do not feed extension cords through doorways, walls or floors.
- Ensure that the extension cords you are using are never covered, or under carpets and high traffic areas. This can lead to an additional trip hazard.

