



EHS Fact Sheet

Extension Cords & Surge Protectors

Introduction

Extension cords and surge protectors are estimated to cause 4,000 injuries per year. These injuries can occur from several problems and can 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.