

Extension Cord Safety Tips



Roughly **3,300 home fires** originate in extension cords each year. Extension cords can overheat and cause fires when used improperly, so **keep these important tips in mind** to protect your home and loved ones.



Never plug an extension cord into **another extension cord**.



Make sure extension cords are **properly rated for their intended use**, indoor or outdoor. Never use an indoor extension cord outdoors.

Extension Cord Designations

S: Designed for General Use

W: Rated for Outdoor Use

J: Standard 300 Voltage Insulation

T: Made from Vinyl Thermoplastic

P: Parallel Wire Construction
(Air Conditioner Cords and Household Extension Cords)

O: Oil-Resistant

E: Made from TPE

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Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots. Never cut off the ground pin to force a fit, which could lead to electric shock.



Only use extension cords that have been **approved by an independent testing laboratory**, such as the ones listed above.

Cord Length and Amperage Limits

25 – 50 Feet Extension Cords

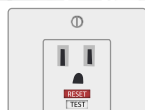
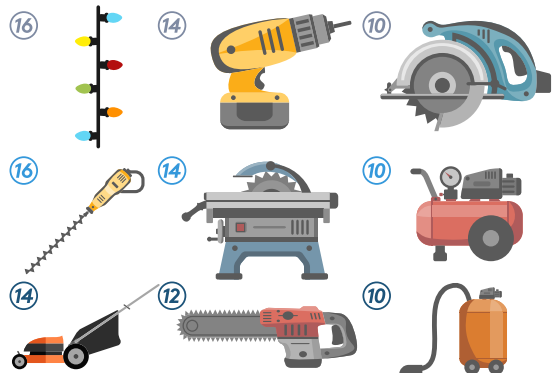
16 Gauge (1–13 Amps)
14 Gauge (14–15 Amps)
12–10 Gauge (16–20 Amps)

100 Feet Extension Cords

16 Gauge (1–10 Amps)
14 Gauge (11–13 Amps)
12 Gauge (14–15 Amps)
10 Gauge (16–20 Amps)

150 Feet Extension Cords

14 Gauge (1–7 Amps)
12 Gauge (8–10 Amps)
10 Gauge (11–15 Amps)



Always use **GFCI protection** when using an extension cord outdoors.



Inspect cords for **damage before use**. Check for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections. Discard damaged extension cords.



Extension cords are for **temporary use only**. A heavy reliance on extension cords is an indication that you have **too few outlets** to address your needs. Have **additional outlets installed** where you need them.

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