



EXTENSION CORDS

TOOLBOX TALK SERIES – ELECTRICAL SAFETY

September 2022

According to NIOSH (National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health), Four hundred and eleven (411) workers were electrocuted last year.

Inspecting Extension Cords

Extension cords should always be inspected prior to use:

- Ensure the extension cord is tested and rated by a testing laboratory like UL.
- Ensure all of the prongs are in place and free of corrosion or damage. All extension cords should be grounded.
- Inspect outer jacket for frays, cracks, and damage. Outer jacket should completely cover interior wiring.
- Cords should not have any unusual kinking or spiraling (indicates interior damage to cord).



Rules for Using Extension Cords

- Ensure that extension cords are properly sized for the intended job. Would you plug industrial equipment into lightweight extension cords?
- Use extension cords only when absolutely necessary. Extension cords are designed for temporary use and should never replace permanent wiring.
- Do not remove ground lugs from extension cord ends.
- Do not use adapters to modify the plug ends on extension cords. Get the correct cord for the right job.
- Avoid using extension cords in areas where they could be pinched or physically damaged.
- Extension cords are not to be run above tiles, in walls or under carpets.
- When using an extension cord firmly grab the plug when plugging in and unplugging. Never pull the cord.

DAMAGED EXTENSION CORDS SHALL BE REMOVED FROM SERVICE