

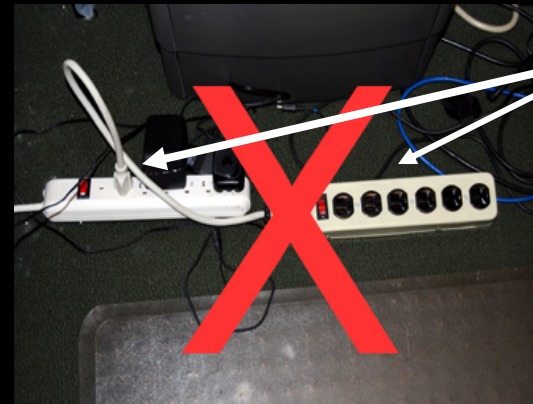
Statistic

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSO) estimates that each year about 3,300 residential fires originate in extension cords, killing about 50 people and injuring 270 others. The most frequent causes of such fires are short circuits, overloading, damage, and/or misuse of extension cords.



Extension Cord Safety

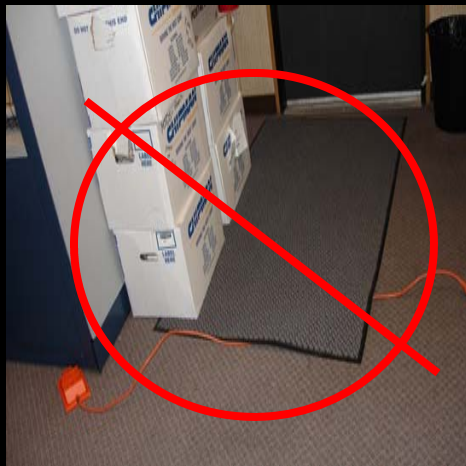
- ▶ Don't use extension cord as permanent wiring. Meaning, extension cord should be used for transient condition, not for day-in day-out usage.
- ▶ Reasons: Extension cord is designed for temporary or short term usage. Continuous usage can cause overheating and the insulation sheath to melt and cord to short circuit.
- ▶ Alternatives:
 - 1.) Use power strip or surge protector with UL rating
 - 2.) If possible, arrange items closer to outlet



Don't connect one extension cord to another

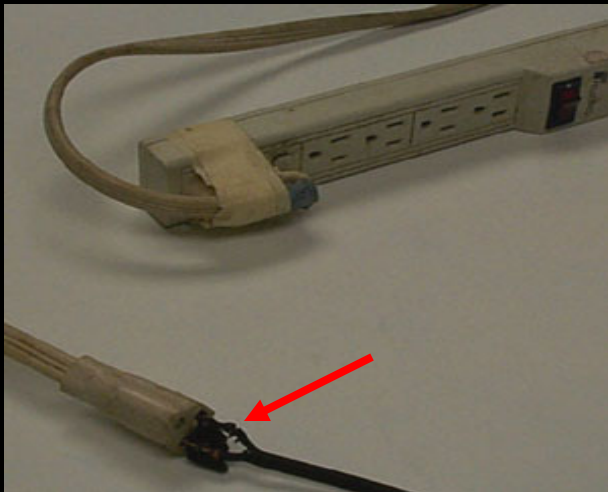
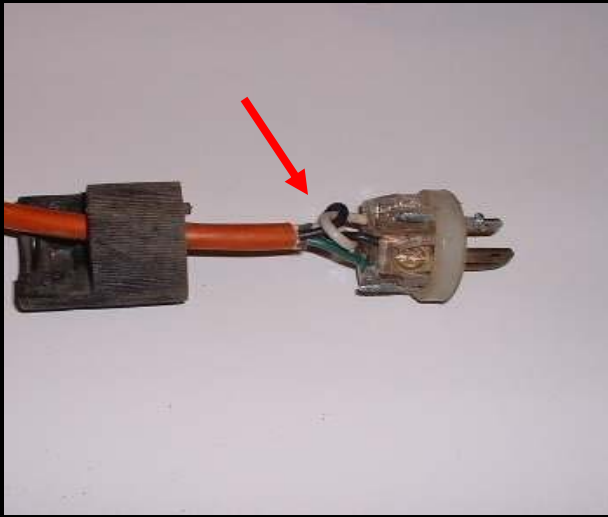
Extension Cord Safety

- ▶ Don't cover an extension cord or run it under a rug or carpet
- ▶ Reasons: As electrical current passes through the wire/cord, electrical resistance causes voltage drop and heating of the wire. Covering the cord can trap heat and overheat the cord. This trapped heat can damage the cord and lead to a fire.



Don't run
electrical cord
thru doorway

Extension Cord Safety



- ▶ Don't use extension cord that is cut, frayed, damaged or has exposed wiring
- ▶ Reasons: Touching the exposed wiring can give you an electric shock or burn. Also, the cord can overheat and short circuit without the proper sheath insulation.

Extension Cord Safety

- ▶ Don't repair exposed wiring by taping the cord with duct or electrical tape
- ▶ Reasons: Taping doesn't provide adequate insulation. You have to wrap the tape 100+ times around the cord to match the integrity of the original insulation sheath. Inadequate insulation can cause overheating and short circuit.



Extension Cord Safety

- ▶ Don't use extension cord or surge protector for high-energy demand appliances and equipment such as refrigerator, microwave oven, space heater, toaster and copy machine.
- ▶ Reason: The energy demand for these devices often exceed the cord's/surge protector's load capacity, causing overloading, overheating, and the cord to short circuit.
- ▶ Alternative: If possible, arrange the device so that it can be plugged directly into a wall outlet.

Relocatable Power Taps



Not a good idea

