

# 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

SJTW

SJTW



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

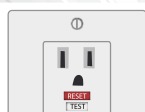
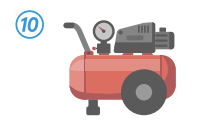
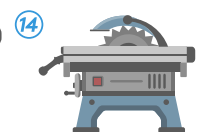
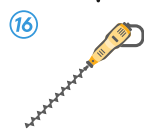
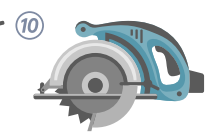
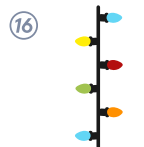
16 Gauge (1–13 Amps)  
14 Gauge (14–15 Amps)  
12–10 Gauge (16–20 Amps)

**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.