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
- T: Made from Vinyl Thermoplastic
- O: Oil-Resistant
- W: Rated for Outdoor Use
- P: Parallel Wire Construction (Air Conditioner Cords and Household Extension Cords)
- J: Standard 300 Voltage Insulation
- E: Made from TPE

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**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)

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

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

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.