

TOOL BOX TALKS

Unsafe Extension Cords

Introduction: Improper use of damaged or faulty extension cords can cause fire. Extension cords can have internal damage, resulting in shock to the user. Internal damage results when the cord is pinched or run over. Cord insulation can be worn or cut, exposing conductors. When placed in traffic areas, extension cords present slip and trip hazards. Knockout boxes used as multi-outlet boxes are a major hazard because the knockouts fall into the box and against conductors. Review these safety tips:

WORKSAFE TIPS

UNSAFE EXTENSION CORDS ARE:

- ✓ Spliced
- ✓ Taped
- ✓ Crushed
- ✓ Burned
- ✓ Connected to “power strips” or “surge protectors”
- ✓ Modified with knockout boxes
- ✓ Missing the ground prong
- ✓ Used with “cheaters”

EXTENSION CORD SAFETY

Use an inline GFCI device in areas that are damp or wet.

Do not “daisy chain” which means linking one extension cord after another over a long distance.

Don’t modify extension cords with quad knockout boxes.

Do not use cheaters – cheaters do not provide a good path to ground.

Extension cords must not be spliced or repaired with wire nuts.

Vinyl tape isn’t an acceptable repair when conductors are damaged.

Vinyl tape is only acceptable when the JACKET has minor damage.

Never remove the ground prong.

Inspect cords before use.

Destroy and discard old or worn out cords.

Never use the cheap, small two-wire extension cords.



