



# Minnesota Electrical Association

## Electrical Toolbox Talks

### Extension Cords

Unless necessary for wiring of fixtures, connection of portable lamps or appliances, or connection of stationary equipment, extension cords may not be used:

- as a substitute for fixed wiring.
- where run through holes in walls, ceilings, or floors.
- where attached to the building surface.
- where concealed.

If it is necessary to use an extension cord in a manner similar to the above descriptions, make sure that bushings are used to protect against sharp corners, edges, etc. Don't use metallic fasteners to hold up cords; use plastic tie straps or plastic staples instead.

#### Extension Cord Do's & Don't's

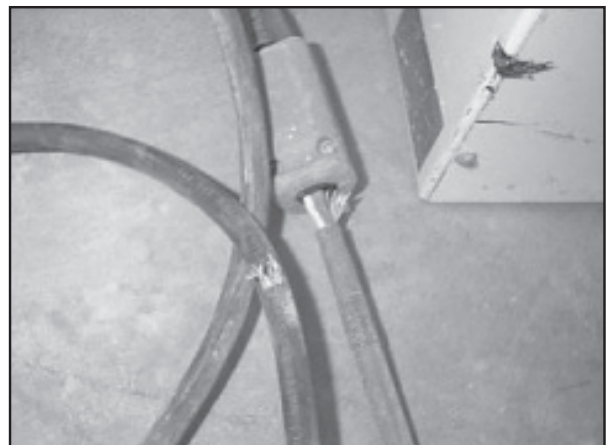
1. Must be rated for hard or extra hard service.
2. Must be 3-wire types only.
3. Handle properly (don't tie in knots).
4. Visual inspections performed daily before use.
5. Must have a ground pin.
6. Must have strain relief.
7. Don't leave them coiled up in a pile while in use.  
This can create a heating effect on the cord which can cause damage over a period of time.
8. Avoid crushing extension cord conductors. This means keeping them out of the path of scissor lifts, carts, gang boxes, etc.

**Tip: Test extension cords** by first testing the receptacle with your outlet tester. Next, plug in the extension cord to the outlet that has been shown to be good. Then, use your tester on the extension cord to ensure proper wiring, grounding, etc.

Note: all 15- and 20-amp circuits must be protected with GFCI on construction jobsites. More information on extension cords can be found at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov) and throughout subpart K.



*Repair this badly damaged cord with quality dead front plugs or connectors, or replace cord altogether.*



*The outer insulation is damaged and the cord end has no strain relief.*