

## Reduce risk of extension cord-generated fire, shock

- ▶ Extension cords are classified for either indoor or outdoor use. While it's fine to use an outdoor power cord indoors, never use an indoor-rated extension cord for an outside job.
- ▶ Before plugging an appliance or power tool into an extension cord, it's extremely important to be sure that the power demand (or pull) of that device doesn't exceed the cord's wattage rating.
- ▶ If you plan to plug more than one device into a given extension cord, calculate their combined energy requirements and make sure that the total isn't higher than the wattage rating for that cord.
- ▶ It's important to know how much electricity is required to run a given device before you plug in. For the most part, you won't need to do more than consult the manufacturer's instructions.
- ▶ When shopping for extension cords, only purchase those that bear the UL symbol.
- ▶ Don't use extension cords with cut or damaged insulation
- ▶ Do not cut, file, or otherwise alter an extension cord's grounding pin or plug blades to make it easier to plug into an outlet! If the extension cord plug doesn't fit into an older outlet, have an electrician replace the receptacle.
- ▶ As long as a power extension cord is plugged into an outlet, it's conducting electricity. To avoid potential safety hazards, always remember to unplug extension cords when they're not in use!
- ▶ If your electrical extension cord can accommodate multiple plugs but not all receptacles are being used, block unused openings with outlet covers to prevent injury to children and pets.
- ▶ Extended exposure to outdoor conditions can cause cords to deteriorate, so whether they're rated for indoors or outdoors, store all extension cords inside when they're not in use.

Source: [CableOrganizer.com](http://CableOrganizer.com)

