



MSHA's Accident Prevention Program Safety Tip

**SAFETY
IS A
VALUE!**

Electrical Extension Cords

Category : [Electrical](#)
Mine Type: [All Mines](#)

Electrical extension cords can be a source of fires and electrical shock when misused at the mine or at home.

Best Practices

- Use extension cords **only** when necessary and **only** on a temporary basis.
- Replace cracked or worn extension cords.
- Insert cord plugs fully so that no part of the prongs are exposed.
- When disconnecting cords, **pull the plug**, not the cord.
- Use only three-wire extension cords for tools with three-prong plugs. Never remove the third (round or U-shaped) prong. It is a safety feature designed to reduce the risk of shock or electrocution.
- If the body of the cord or the plug feels hot or if there is a softening of the plastic, it is a warning that the plug wires are failing. **Do not use** the extension cord.
- Do not use an extension cord while it is coiled or looped, and never cover any part of an extension cord with rugs while the cord is in use.
- Using nails or staples to attach extension cords to a wall or ceiling could damage the cord and present a shock or fire hazard.
- Don't plug in tools that exceed the rating of the cord.
- When using outdoor tools and appliances, only use extension cords labeled for outdoor use.
- Avoid plugging multiple extension cords together. This can lead to overheating.



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Remember – Safety is a Value that you can LIVE with!