

Toolbox Talks

Electrical Power Cords

Have you ever setup a new piece of equipment and then go to plug it in, only to realize there are not enough outlets available? This is a common and frustrating reality for many of us. OSHA has some clear regulations when it comes to using power strips and daisy chaining, also known as multi-plugging.

Electrical Cords:

Electrical cords are used in almost every part of our lives. It is important that they are in good condition prior to each use.

- Can become a trip hazard
- Extension cords are not to be used for temporary wiring
 - Permissible up to 90 days
- Must have grounding pin or be polarized
 - Polarized has one blade wider than the other
- Damaged cords should not be used
 - Cuts, crushed, exposed wires, spiraling etc.

Daisy Chains and Multi-plugging:

When we are in need of more electrical outlets, we often resort to extension cord and power strips. When doing so, there are a few things we need to keep in mind.

- Extension cords and mulitplugs should not be plugged into each other
 - Power strip into power strip
 - Extension cord into extension cord
 - Power strip or extension combined together
- You will need the proper equipment for the job
- Can lead to overloading, failure, and/or fire
- Only power strips with equipped internal fuses are acceptable as permanent wiring

Additional Safety Precautions:

- Visually inspect cords for damaged and exposed wires. Do not use damaged cords
- Inspect to make sure ground prong is in good condition
- Do not drag cords over rough surfaces and don't use them to lift or pull materials
- Do not disconnect cords by jerking them out. They should be disconnected at the receptacle
- Do not string electrical cords through water or oil and grease
- When not in use, the electrical cords should be stored neatly coiled and stored