

# OHBA Safety Pages: Extension Cord Safety

**Introduction:** On construction sites, flexible extension cords that power tools and equipment are everywhere. These cords are often loose and uncovered. They can cause tripping hazards. They can be damaged easily and create electrical hazards.



## **Main Message:**

- Inspect all extension cords daily for damage and missing grounding prongs. Repair or replace damaged equipment.
- Use a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter to protect against any electrical fault, especially when working outside or in wet/damp conditions.
- Keep extension cords away from foot traffic to prevent tripping and cord damage. The insulation in cords and electrical tools can become damaged. If a live wire touches exposed metal parts inside a tool, it can become energized.
- DO NOT use extension cords/flexible wiring
  - ~ where frequent inspection would be difficult
  - ~ where damage would be likely
  - ~ disconnect from the power supply by pulling or jerking the cord from the outlet
  - ~ for long-term electrical supply as a substitute for the fixed wiring of a structure
  - ~ rated for light-duty power cords on heavy load applications
  - ~ where vehicles or equipment are allowed to pass over unprotected power cords. Cords should be put into electrical conduits or protected by placing them between two pieces of lumber of suitable strength
- In addition, NEVER USE
  - ~ a metal outlet box, Romex, or nonmetallic cable as an extension cord
  - ~ staples or nails to hold cords in place
  - ~ multiple cords that are connected together (use one long cord instead)
  - ~ multiple cords plugged into one outlet where a circuit overload could occur



The information we provide is not intended to include all possible safety measures and controls. In addition, the safety information we provide does not relieve the Members of its own duties and obligations with regard to safety concerns, nor does Oregon Home Builders Association guarantee to the Members or others that the Member's property, job sites and/or operations are safe, healthful, or in compliance with applicable laws, regulations or standards. The Members remain responsible for their own operations, safety practices and procedures and should consult with legal counsel as they deem appropriate.

SAFETY PAGE MEETING GUIDE

Topic: Extension Cord Safety

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in crew: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

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Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

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Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
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6.		
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9.		
10.		
11.		
12.		

Supervisor's remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)