UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA MEDICAL CENTER℠
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

Safety Guideline
Extension Cord Safety

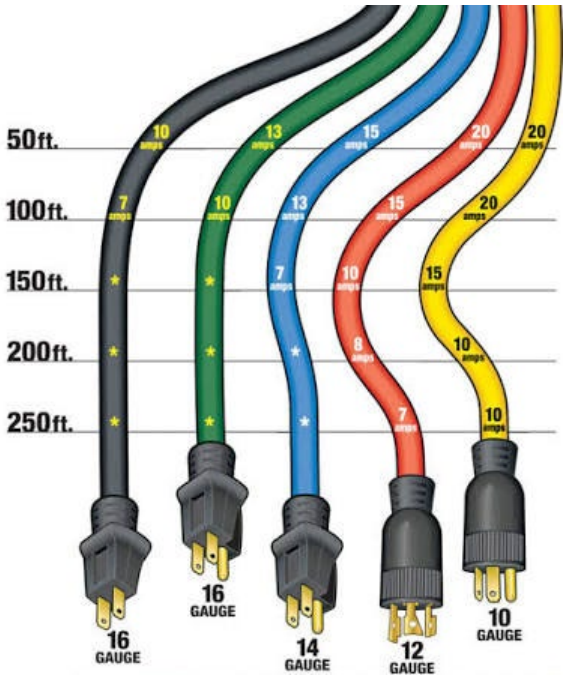
Purpose
This safety guideline is to ensure all temporary power setups meet OSHA 1910.334 and National Electrical Code (NEC) standards.

Cord Certification & Technical Standards

- **NRTL Approved:** Must be UL-rated or certified by another Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (e.g., ETL/Intertek, CSA Group). Component-only markings are insufficient.

- **Factory Assembled:** Must be a single, factory-manufactured unit. User-assembled or heavily repaired assemblies are prohibited.
- **Grounding Prong:** Cord must feature a fully intact three-prong grounding plug. Ground-lifter / 3-to-2 prong adapters are strictly banned.
- **Capacity Constraints:** The total connected amperage and wattage capacity must never exceed the cord's labeled structural limit.

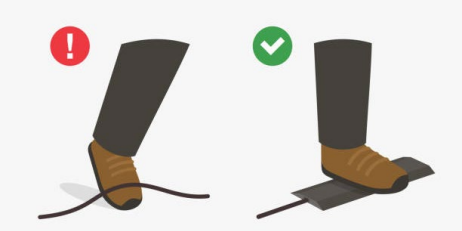
Cord Gauge vs Amperage



Loading & Device Restrictions

- **No Daisy-Chaining:** Extension cords must plug directly into an energized source outlet. Never plug an extension cord into another cord.
- **No Power Tap Combinations:** Do not use extension cords in tandem with relocatable power taps (surge protectors or power strips).
- **Single Device Policy:** Multi-outlet extension cords cannot be used to run multiple independent appliances simultaneously.
- **High-Draw Ban:** Absolutely prohibited for high-draw appliances or heavy equipment (e.g., space heaters, microwaves, coffee makers, refrigerators).
- **No Permanent Wiring:** Extension cords are prohibited from being used as permanent wiring solutions to provide power to certain areas or pieces of equipment.

Safe Placement & Physical Routing



- **No Walkway Hazards:** Cords cannot create a trip hazard. If routed across walkways or paths of egress, heavy-duty commercial cord covers/bridges must be used.
- **Structural Barriers:** Do not route cords through holes in walls, ceilings, floors, or through active doorways and windows.
- **No Hidden Routing:** Cords must remain visible. Never run cords under carpets, area rugs, floor mats, or furniture, which traps heat and risks ignition.
- **No overhead pipes or supports:** Do not wrap extension cords around overhead supports, utility lines, or piping such as sprinkler lines.
- **No Sharp Securing:** Never secure a cord with metal staples, nails, or zip ties. Cords must remain loose or lay within structured protectors.

Environmental & Handling Rules

- **Pre-Use Inspection:** Cords must be in pristine condition. Immediately discard cords with cracked jackets, loose prongs, or exposed wires. Tape repairs are illegal.
- **Fully Uncoiled:** Cords must be completely uncoiled and laid flat during operation. Coiled cords generate induction heat and can melt their own insulation.
- **Weather Matching:** Indoor cords must never be deployed outdoors or in wet areas. If water exposure is possible, use 'Outdoor W-Rated' assemblies.
- **Outage Conclusion:** Extension cords are strictly for temporary use. Disconnect, wrap, and safely store all cords immediately once permanent facility power is restored.



Updated 10/2026