

AGC Tool Box Safety Talk

PROPER USE OF EXTENSION CORDS

INTRODUCTION

1. Review any accidents or “near accidents” from the past week.
2. Describe the hazards of the work as they relate to your project. Explain or show the SAFE way of doing the job.
3. Give the TOOL BOX SAFETY TALK

An extension cord looks harmless, but most extension cords carry 110 volts of electricity, and 110 volts can kill. Extension cords, if not used correctly, can cause electric shock, fires (from overloading circuits), and even slipping and tripping hazards. Follow these tips for safe use:

- Check that extension cords are correctly rated for the amount electricity they are to carry and are Underwriter Laboratory (UL) approved. Heavy commercial duty cords are the minimum recommended on any construction site.
- Ensure that all extension cords are serviceable and free of exposed wiring and splices, frayed areas, and/or deteriorated insulations. Discard extension cords with broken wires or damaged insulation.
- Connect only one device at a time to extension cords.
- Use extension cords for temporary purposes, not for permanent installation. Where there is a permanent need for an electrical outlet, one should be installed. Always use GFCI’s with extension cords.
- Do not tape or splice extension cords.
- Do not place extension cords across walkways or doorways where they could pose a tripping hazard.
- Do not place extension cords under carpets, under doors, or other locations that subject the cord to abrasion or other damage.
- Do not drive any vehicle over extension cords.

