



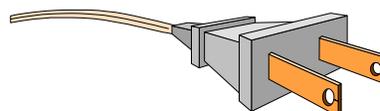
Customer Focus on Loss Control

Innovative Safety and Health SolutionsSM

Extension Cord Safety

Did you ever consider that a quarter-inch diameter cord could cause the loss of your business? In the case of extension cords and fires, it happens all too often. In one fire, more than fifty companies went out of business temporarily because of a fire caused by an extension cord. An extension cord had been run from an outlet, underneath a door, and to a radio. The continual movement of the door on the cord eventually wore away enough insulation to allow the cord to heat and ignite. Only the presence of a fire wall prevented the total loss of the building, which was used for small warehousing and manufacturing operations. The result was a loss of nearly \$1,000,000.

What's wrong with the plug in this picture?
(See answer elsewhere on this page.)



If your business has never considered implementing a policy on safe use of extension cords, now is a good time. Consider these factors:

Problem	Control
Extension cords are designed for <i>temporary</i> use, but are often used continuously.	If the workstation is permanent, install permanent wiring.
Cords that are too small for the job can overheat, melting the insulation and leaving bare wires exposed.	Wattage and amperage must meet or exceed the rating of the tool or equipment. Have qualified staff approve extension cords and uses.
Extension cords are prone to damage from loose plugs, worn insulation, or other physical stress.	Establish an inspection program. Anyone can inspect the cords in their immediate area.

ANSWER: It does not have a grounding (third) prong.

Extension Cord Inspection Checklist

- Is this a permanent job? If so, use permanent wiring, not an extension cord.
- Do the cord wattage and amperage match the tool or equipment?
- How many cords are currently used in this area? Reduce this number, if it is possible to do so safely.
- Are cord plugs and cords in good condition? Insulation not pulled away from the plug? Insulation not cracked or missing? Plug prongs not bent or missing?
- Are cords kept off the floor, where they might be rolled over, crushed, or worn out?
- Are cords kept away from places where they might be caught in moving equipment?
- Are cords kept away from heat sources? (motors, ovens, etc.)
- Are cords kept out from under or over doors, or away from moving objects that can wear off their insulation?

