

Electrical Cord Safety Checklist

Extension cords, power strips and surge protectors can be safe and effective during normal use, but they pose significant safety risks if they are damaged or are used incorrectly.

Taking a minute to use electrical cords safely is crucial to your building safety. Use this checklist as your guide. Any box unchecked should be cause for concern and corrective action.

- Extension cords, power strips and surge protectors are inspected before every use.
- Cords are free of exposed wires, cracks or splices.
- Cords are unwound and free of kinks when used.
- The electrical wall outlet is inspected for cracks, breaks or loose pins.
- Plugs are inserted fully, so no part of the prongs are exposed.
- Appliances are properly grounded (three-pronged cords are used with three-pin outlets).
- Circuits are kept from overloading by using only one electrical cord (cords are not strung together, or several cords are not used in one outlet).
- Cords are kept free from water sources.
- Cords are kept clear of heavy foot traffic areas.
- The UL label of the cord confirms the cord meets the requirement (electrical capacity) for the job.
- Extension cords are put away after their temporary use.

Be smart about electrical safety. Use this Electrical Cord Safety Checklist monthly.

