

REACHING TO SAFETY:

Use Extension Cords Properly

Roughly **3,300 home fires** originate in extension cords each year, **killing 50 people and injuring 270 more**. Extension cords can overheat and cause fires when used improperly, so keep these important tips in mind to **protect your home and workplace**.

DON'T attempt to **plug extension cords into one another**.



Make sure extension cords are **properly rated** for their intended use, indoor or outdoor, and **meet or exceed the power needs** of the appliance or device being used.



Keep all **outdoor extension cords** clear of snow and standing water.



Do **NOT** overload extension cords.



A heavy reliance on **extension cords** is an indication that you have too few outlets to address your needs. Have **additional outlets installed** where you need them.



Inspect cords for **DAMAGE** before use. Check for **cracked or frayed sockets**, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.



Do **NOT** nail or staple **electrical cords** to walls or baseboards.



Do **NOT** run through **walls, doorways, ceilings or floors**. If cord is covered, heat cannot escape, which may result in a **FIRE HAZARD**.



NEVER use **three-prong plugs** with outlets that only have two slots. **Never cut off the ground pin to force a fit**, which could lead to electric shock.



Buy only cords that have been **approved by an independent testing laboratory**.



Do **NOT** substitute **extension cords** for permanent wiring.



DO NOT use an **extension cord** or a **power strip** with heaters or fans, which could cause cords to overheat and result in a fire.