

CERT Monthly Safety Tip

Proper Extension Cord Safety

About 3,300 home fires originate in extension cords each year, which can overheat when used improperly.

- Don't plug extension cords into one another
- Use extension cords properly rated for their use, indoor and outdoor
- Inspect cords for damage before use
- Do not run through walls, doors, ceilings or floors
- Do not nail or staple electrical cords to walls, floors or baseboards
- Cords can overheat if covered, not allowing heat to escape, which may result in a fire hazard
- Keep all outdoor extension cords clear of standing water
- Consider having a licensed electrician install more outlets where you need them instead of relying on extension cords
- Never use 3-prong plugs with outlets that have only 2 slots
- Never cut off the ground pin to force a fit; this can cause electrical shock.