

# Statistic

**The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSO) estimates that each year about 3,300 residential fires originate in extension cords, killing about 50 people and injuring 270 others. The most frequent causes of such fires are short circuits, overloading, damage, and/or misuse of extension cords.**



# Extension Cord Safety

- ▶ Don't use extension cord as permanent wiring. Meaning, extension cord should be used for transient condition, not for day-in day-out usage.
- ▶ Reasons: Extension cord is designed for temporary or short term usage. Continuous usage can cause overheating and the insulation sheath to melt and cord to short circuit.
- ▶ Alternatives:
  - 1.) Use power strip or surge protector with UL rating
  - 2.) If possible, arrange items closer to outlet

Don't **CONNECT** extension cord/surge protector to each other to provide additional length



# Extension Cord Safety

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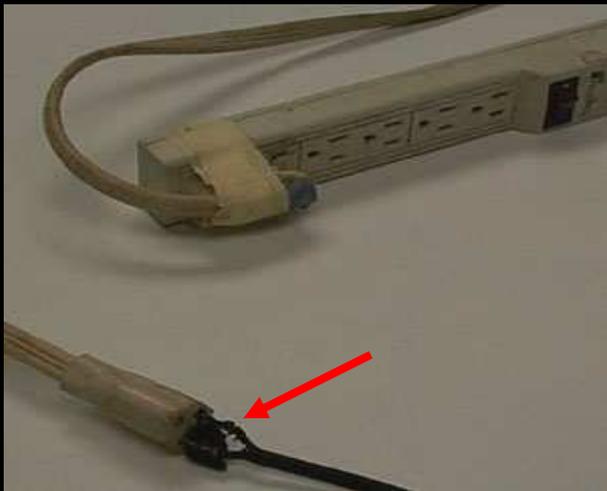
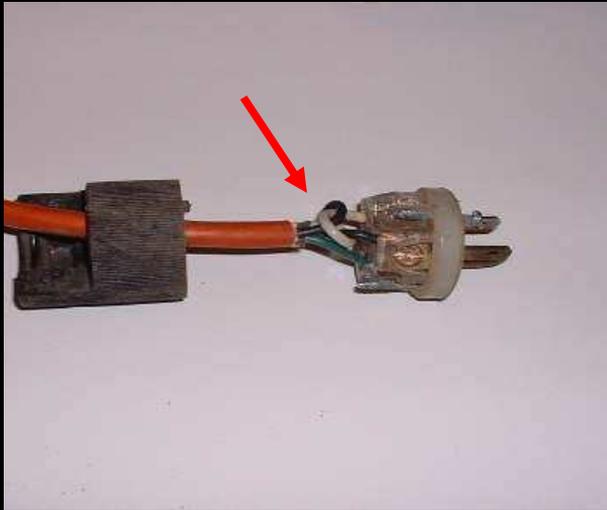
- ▶ Don't run electrical cord thru doorway or across a walkway.
- ▶ It's a tripping hazard and the cord can get damaged from the traffic.



Don't run  
electrical cord  
thru doorway

# Extension Cord Safety

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- ▶ Don't use extension cord that is cut, frayed, damaged or has exposed wiring
- ▶ Reasons: Touching the exposed wiring can give you an electric shock or burn. Also, the cord can overheat and short circuit without the proper sheath insulation.

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- ▶ Don't repair exposed wiring by taping the cord with duct or electrical tape
- ▶ Reasons: Taping doesn't provide adequate insulation. You have to wrap the tape 100+ times around the cord to match the integrity of the original insulation sheath. Inadequate insulation can cause overheating and short circuit.



# Extension Cord Safety

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- ▶ Don't use extension cord or surge protector for high-energy demand appliances and equipment such as refrigerator, microwave oven, space heater, toaster and copy machine.
- ▶ Reason: The energy demand for these devices often exceed the cord's/surge protector's load capacity, causing overloading, overheating, and the cord to short circuit.
- ▶ Alternative: If possible, arrange the device so that it can be plugged directly into a wall outlet.

