

Extension cords: inspect and protect

Talk 02 of 52 | Week 2 | Electrical

Leader: adapt this talk to today's electrical work and site procedures. See the educational-use and liability notice on page 2.

START THE CONVERSATION

A temporary cord can be damaged by a doorway, sharp edge, or moving cart. Take a moment to inspect the entire route as well as the cord.

KEY TALKING POINTS

1. Use a cord suitable for the task and environment. Construction cords must meet the applicable hard- or extra-hard-usage requirements.
2. Check the jacket, plug, strain relief, and connectors. Remove damaged equipment from service and report it; do not improvise a repair to keep working.
3. Protect cords from crushing, abrasion, water exposure, and traffic. Plan routing so it does not create a trip hazard.
4. Confirm the required ground-fault protection or assured equipment grounding program with the employer. Never defeat a grounding connection or protective device.
5. Electrical job example: a cord for a conduit threader crosses the delivery route while another cord supplies work lights. Walk both routes with the crew and identify where equipment movement could damage them or leave people without lighting. Coordinate a protected route before production starts rather than repeatedly moving cords around vehicles.
6. Ask each worker to describe how a damaged plug or jacket gets reported. Identify a specific place for out-of-service equipment so it cannot be mistaken for a spare. Assign responsibility for obtaining a replacement; otherwise a rejected cord may return to work when someone cannot find another one.
7. At a change of location, review the setup again. The same tool may now be near water, sharp sheet metal, or a crowded passage. Have the supervisor confirm that the supply and protection remain appropriate. End the discussion by tracing one cord from its source to the equipment it serves.

ASK THE CREW

1. Where could a cord be damaged today?
2. How do we identify and remove defective equipment?

BEFORE WORK STARTS

Walk one temporary-power route and correct or report any exposed cord hazard before use.

OSHA SOURCES / FURTHER READING

OSHA: Flexible cords

OSHA 1926.404: Construction wiring protection

Attendance & action record

Extension cords: inspect and protect

Date: _____ Leader: _____

Company / jobsite: _____

Site hazards and controls discussed:

Follow-up action / responsible person / due date:

EDUCATIONAL USE & LIABILITY NOTICE

Educational use and limitation of liability: Electrical Helps provides this material as general information, as is, without warranties of accuracy, completeness, or fitness for a particular task. It is not engineering, legal, or site-specific safety advice and is not OSHA-issued or approved training. Employers and users remain responsible for hazard assessment, qualified supervision, required training, safe work procedures, and compliance with applicable requirements and manufacturer instructions. Do not perform work beyond your training or authorization. To the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, Electrical Helps and its owners and contributors disclaim liability for injury, death, property damage, or other loss arising from use of or reliance on this material. Nothing here excludes liability that cannot lawfully be excluded, including liability for gross negligence or willful misconduct where prohibited, or waives statutory rights or employer duties. Attendance signatures acknowledge participation and receipt of this notice, not competency, certification, or a contractual release of claims.

Participant name	Signature / acknowledgment

Signatures record attendance and receipt of the notice above only. No attendance data is collected by the website. Keep the completed record according to your organization's procedures.