

Extension Cord Safety

What is Daisy Chaining?

Daisy chaining is the practice of connecting multiple power strips or extension cords together. Daisy chaining increases the risk of fire due to overloading circuits. This practice is strictly prohibited by Cal/OSHA and the Office of the State Fire Marshal. To prevent electrical fires in the workplace, follow the do's and don'ts below.

Do's

- Select the proper length of extension cord so that you don't have to chain multiple cords together
- Only use extension cords for temporary power needs
- If possible, rearrange desks, workstations and equipment to an area with a power outlet so that extension cords aren't needed
- Check the condition of extension cords and power strips before use to be sure they aren't damaged
- Power strips should be plugged directly into the wall receptacle
- Only use UL listed equipment



Don'ts

- Do not overload power strips or outlets. If the breaker trips, call FD&O 4-1990 to report
- Do not use extension cords in place of permanent power
- Do not chain extension cords or power strips together
- Do not string extension cords across doors or through walls
- Do not place extension cords in such a way that they might create a tripping hazard
- Do not plug high amp appliances, like microwaves, coffee pots or refrigerators, into power strips or extension cords. These must be plugged directly into the wall receptacle

