

General Purpose Extension Cords – Instructions?

Electricity is one of life's essential necessities, and is both useful and beneficial when properly utilized. When used improperly, however, it can be dangerous, even deadly.

General purpose extension cords are also both necessary and convenient. They are used everywhere by just about everyone. Since when does one need instructions on how to—and how not to—use an extension cord? Quality extension cord products come with instructions as to their proper use, both the do's and the don'ts. These instructions are included on a tag that is intended to remain permanently attached to the cord. Proper and safe use of anything electrical includes reading and following the included instructions. The National Electrical Code states that "Listed or labeled equipment (including extension cords) shall be installed and used in accordance with any instructions included in the listing or labeling." [emphasis added] (*2014 National Electrical Code, Section 110.3(B) Installation and Use.*)

Extension cords are intended for task-oriented use and not permitted as a substitute for permanent electrical wiring. (*2014 National Electrical Code, Section 400.8(1) Uses Not Permitted.*)

What follows is an example of the instruction tag, and a listing tag, that will be found attached to the typical general purpose extension cord. Please read and heed. It could save a life ... maybe yours.

DANGER! ELECTRICAL CORDS CAN BE HAZARDOUS

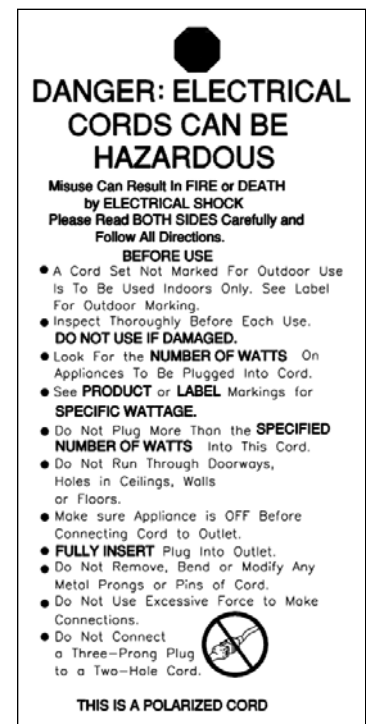
Misuse Can Result in FIRE or DEATH by ELECTRICAL SHOCK.

Please Read BOTH SIDES Carefully and Follow All Directions.

BEFORE USE

- **A Cord Set Not Marked For Outdoor Use Is To Be Used Indoors Only. See Label For Outdoor Marking.**
- **Inspect Thoroughly Before Each Use. DO NOT USE IF DAMAGED.**
- **Look For The NUMBER OF WATTS On Appliances To Be Plugged Into Cord.**
- **See LABEL On Cord For SPECIFIC WATTAGE.**
- **Do Not Plug More Than the SPECIFIED NUMBER OF WATTS Into This Cord.**
- **Do Not Run Through Doorways, Holes in Ceilings, Walls or Floors.**
- **Make Sure Appliance is OFF Before Connecting Cord To Outlet.**
- **FULLY INSERT Plug Into Outlet.**
- **Do Not Remove, Bend, or Modify Any Metal Prongs or Pins of Cord.**
- **Do Not Use Excessive Force to Make Connections.**
- **Do Not Connect a Three-Prong Plug to a Two-Hole Cord**

THIS IS A POLARIZED CORD



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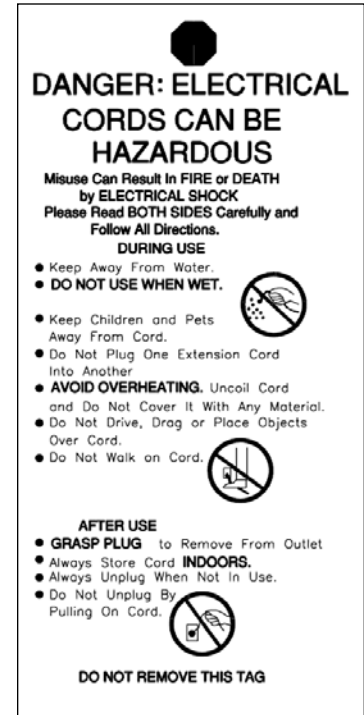
DURING USE

- Keep Away From Water.
- **DO NOT USE WHEN WET.**
- Keep Children and Pets Away From Cord.
- Do Not Plug One Extension Cord Into Another.
- **AVOID OVERHEATING.** Uncoil Cord and Do Not Cover It With Any Material.
- Do Not Drive, Drag, or Place Objects Over Cord.
- Do Not Walk on Cord.

AFTER USE

- **GRASP PLUG** to Remove From Outlet.
- Always Store Cord **INDOORS.**
- Always Unplug When Not In Use.
- Do Not Unplug By Pulling On Cord.

DO NOT REMOVE THIS TAG



UL LISTED CORD SET

15A
125V
1875W

Suitable for use with outdoor appliances – store indoors when not in use.

Note 1: This extension cord is listed by Underwriters Laboratories for use with connected electrical loads that do not exceed 15 Amperes, 125 Volts, and 1875 Watts.

Note 2: Do not use any extension cord that is not marked with the label of a Nationally Recognized testing Laboratory (such as UL) to indicate that it is recognized as suitable for use as an extension cord in accordance with the National Electrical Code.