

5 Minute Safety Talk

Power Strips & Extension Cords

Only industrial rated power strips, that are plugged into a permanent or portable GFCI device, should be allowed in the facility for low-powered loads, such as computers, battery charges etc.

Household power strips like the one pictured here should not be allowed in the facility/yard, they are allowed in office areas. These power strips are not designed for high power loads such as space heaters, refrigerators and microwave ovens, tools or machines which can easily exceed the recommended ampere ratings on many power strips.



Extension cords for long term use is prohibited.

If you need to use an extension cord it must be only for temporary use and it must be plugged into a permanently installed GFCI device or a portable GFCI device.

Extension cords should never:

- be used as a substitute for fixed wiring,
- run through walls, ceilings, or floors,
- cause a trip hazard,
- run through doorways or windows,
- run through paths of forklifts, carts, or scissor lifts,
- be secured to any fixed structure as this would no longer make the use temporary.

If you find an extension cord is used on a regular basis for a particular process, please request a permanent receptacle or cord drop be installed by facilities/maintenance.

Power strips and extension cords are not equipped to handle the extra current flow needed to power equipment in a yard or facility.

What is GFCI?

A ground-fault circuit-interrupter (GFCI) is a protective device that compares the amount of current going into electrical equipment with the amount of current returning from the equipment and if a targeted deviation (0.005 amperes) is exceeded, the circuit is quickly broken, often within as little as 25 milliseconds.

