



# Toolbox Talk

## Topic: Electrical Safety for Construction Sites

Electrical equipment on construction sites is potentially deadly, including extension cords, which are numerous and are likely to become damaged because of the rough manner they're typically used. Inspect to ensure:

- All extension cords are three-wire cords
- The ground pin is on a male plug
- All cords are protected from damage (likely to occur when passing through a door or window)
- There is no unbroken insulation on the cord and all wires are continuous and unbroken
- End appliances (plug and receptacle) are gripped to insulation
- Metal boxes with knockouts are not used on extension cords
- Plugs are dead-front (non-metallic sheathed cable) and not used as flexible cord
- Cords are not stapled or hung from nails
- Bushing is passing through holes in covers or outlets boxes

### Also, check these items:

- Temporary lights are not supported by cords
- Bulb guards are used on temporary lights
- Electrical power tools with non-dead man switches have a magnetic restart (when injury to the operator might result if motors were to restart following power failures)
- Provisions are made to prevent machines from automatically restarting upon restoration of power in place;
- Outlets do not have reversed polarity
- Power tools are double insulated or have a ground pin

Guard all exposed electric of more than 50 volts so no one can come in contact (receptables, light-bulb sockets, bare wires, load center, switches). Guard by:

- Using approved enclosures
- Locating them in a room, vault or similar enclosure accessible only to qualified persons
- Arranging suitable permanent, substantial partitions or screens so only qualified persons have access to the space within reach of live parts
- Locating them on a suitable balcony or platform that is elevated and arranged to exclude unqualified persons
- Elevating them eight feet or more above the working surface

With all these activities, it's important to take the time prior to beginning work each day to ensure safety is considered first. The fluid nature of work activities, along with the changing environment and high potential for damage can let these items become a hazard quickly.

