

# EXTENSION CORDS

Schools are required to follow the fire and safety regulations regarding extension cords.

## Extension cords may not be used as permanent wiring.

- Grounded extension cords are only permissible for one portable appliance in temporary use.
- Power taps (surge protected power strips) may be used for small appliances/equipment when plugged directly into permanent receptacles. Power taps may not be plugged into extension cords or each other.
- Extension cords must be maintained in good condition without cuts, splices, deterioration or damage.



It is fully understandable that some schools' wiring was constructed before the current need of all the electrical items now used in the educational setting. Still I have seen grown men (maintenance staff) beat their head against the wall when there are adequate outlets available, yet the room is configured so that extension cords are strung across the classroom.

Do you really need to use an extension cord or can the room be rearranged?

**If the extension cord crosses a traffic area, a cord protector shall be used (it has beveled edges so that it is not a trip hazard).**

Sometimes staff "fix" one hazard yet create another. They put a piece of carpet over the extension cord so that it is not a trip hazard. Walking on the carpet rubs the insulation of the extension cord and since it is covered the damage is not visible. This damaged cord could start a fire or provide a shock hazard.

If you attach an extension cord to the wall it is considered to be permanently installed and contrary to code.

