



Tenant Top Tips: Using Extension Cords Safely

Alright, let's talk extension cords. They're super handy for when you need to plug something in away from a wall socket, but they're not always used safely. Let's avoid any electrical mishaps!

The Dangers of Overloading

Extension cords have a maximum wattage rating. Think of it like a limit on how much electricity they can handle. Plugging in too many high-powered appliances (like heaters, kettles, and microwaves) can overload the cord, causing it to overheat and potentially start a fire. Not good!

Cord Conduct:

Follow these simple rules to stay safe:

- **Check the Rating:** Look for the wattage or amperage rating on the extension cord. Don't exceed it!
- **Uncoil Fully:** Always unwind the cord completely. Coiled cords can overheat.
- **No Rug Hiding:** Never run cords under rugs or carpets. They can get damaged and become a fire hazard.
- **Temporary Use Only:** Extension cords are for temporary use. If you need more sockets permanently, get an electrician to install them.
- **Ditch the Damage:** If a cord is frayed, cracked, or has exposed wires, throw it away! It's an electrical hazard waiting to happen.
- **No Daisy Chains:** Don't plug an extension cord into another one to extend its length or the number of available plug points. This can cause them to overheat by exceeding their wattage rating, and is a fire hazard waiting to happen.
- **Hot to the Touch:** If your extension cord gets hot to the touch, safely turn off the connected appliances and turn off the extension cord at the mains outlet and unplug. Check the rating on the power cord, it's hot to touch because it is either faulty or you have exceeded its wattage limit.

By using extension cords responsibly, you can prevent electrical problems and keep your home safe.