# Extension Cords

E · https://fo.umich.edu/fosg/extension-cords/

The University of Michigan follows guidelines found in national electrical and fire codes pertaining to the use of extension cords. Extension cords cannot be used as a permanent wiring method and may only be used to provide a temporary means of power for no longer than 30 days.

Extension cords may be used to provide temporary power for portable equipment, such as a vacuum cleaner, electric drills, or lighting. Remove the cord when the task is completed.

Extension cords should NEVER be used to power permanent appliances, such as lab equipment, kitchen equipment, copiers, etc.

Surge-protector plug strips for personal computers and their components are acceptable. The plug strips must be UL-rated and contain an over-current protection device. Electrical appliances, such as hotplates or coffeemakers, should never be plugged into a plug strip.

All extension cords and plug strips must:

- be grounded
- be rated to carry the electrical load of the device attached to it
- never routed under rugs, through walls, doors, windows, ceilings or floors, or across hallways or paths of ingress or egress
- never be concealed behind building walls, ceilings or floors
- be in good repair (replace any damaged cord or plug strip)
- never be modified or repaired
- never be daisy-chained to achieve additional outlets

Additional safety information is available at https://ehs.umich.edu/research-clinical/equipment-tools/extension-cord-power-strip/.

Facilities & Operations will install additional outlets in spaces that require them. Requests of this nature are funded by the departments on a customer pay basis. To request service, call the Facilities

Service Center at 734-647-2059 or visit requests.fo.umich.edu.