



# Is it safe to use outdoor power

Are extension cords safe for outdoor use?

To prevent a potentially devastating fire, or serious injury, or death from electrical shock, you'll need a safe extension cord, designed for outdoor use. But, how can you tell if the extension cord you have in mind for the job is safe for outdoor use?

How do you know if a cord is rated for outdoor use?

To identify an extension cord that is rated for outdoor use, look for the letter 'W' on the cord or on the packaging. Cords with this rating have additional insulation around the wires to protect them from the elements.

How can you ensure a power cord's safety?

To ensure safety and prevent tripping hazards, select a power cord with TEST/RESET buttons, typically found in kitchens, baths, and garages, which protect your family from shock in the event the cord is exposed to water. Be sure to choose a cord that is the correct length, neither too short nor too long.

Are outdoor electric cords rated for amperage?

Outdoor electric cords showcase thick insulation materials to block out moisture and UV rays. Depending on which variety you purchase, exterior insulation jackets can feature rubber, vinyl, or plastic. All indoor and outdoor cables are rated for amperage. Outdoor extension cords carry higher levels of current to power devices without overheating.

What is the difference between indoor and outdoor electrical cords?

Most indoor cords are equipped with a two-prong plug, whereas outdoor styles have three. The extra piece activates a grounding wire that helps to prevent sparks and electrical fires in case of a fault. Outdoor cords are safe to use year-round no matter what the forecast brings your way.

Are outdoor cords safe to use year-round?

The extra piece activates a grounding wire that helps to prevent sparks and electrical fires in case of a fault. Outdoor cords are safe to use year-round no matter what the forecast brings your way. However, additional accessories are in order if your environment is prone to rain, morning dew, and temperature changes.

You'll need a safe extension cord, designed for outdoor use, to prevent a potentially devastating fire, or serious injury, or death from electrical shock. But, how can you tell if the extension cord ...

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