

Hand and power tools



Tips on using extension leads at jobsites

- Fully unwind a long lead before you use it. Leads that are left coiled up can generate a lot of heat when there's a current passing through them.
- Check the plugs at each end to make sure that the wires aren't starting to pull out. If the plugs or lead are not in good condition, tag it and take it straight back to your supervisor for repairs.
- Never pull a plug out of a socket by tugging on the lead. Always hold the body of the plug when you remove it.
- Keep leads clear of wet patches on the ground or floor. This especially applies to any joins in leads.
- As a rule of thumb, use leads rated at a minimum of 10 amps for power tools, and 15 amps or more for large machines.
- Try to keep the lead as short as possible for the job you're doing. The longer a lead is, the higher the voltage drop will be from one end to the other, so the higher its amp rating will need to be.
- Don't drape leads across walkways, access-ways or vehicle paths. If there is no alternative to running a lead across a thoroughfare, make sure the lead is very obvious, and either protect it from vehicle and pedestrian traffic or put it overhead.