



CITY OF VERNON  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
*Fire Prevention Bureau*  
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## ***EXTENSION CORD USE INFORMATION SHEET***

### **PURPOSE**

To prescribe rules and requirements for the approved use of extension cords at the workplace.

### **DEFINITIONS**

Appliance or fixture is a device or machine that is operated by electricity to perform a specific task or function and shall be known as:

**Fixed.** An appliance or fixture which is fastened or otherwise secured at a specific location.

**Portable.** An appliance or fixture which is actually moved or can easily be moved from one place to another in normal use.

**Stationary.** An appliance or fixture which is not easily moved from one place to another in normal use.

**Extension cord** (portable flexible cord) is wiring of any length which has one male connector on one end and one or more female connectors on the other.

**Multi-plug adapter** is any device that plugs into a receptacle and allows that receptacle to supply power to more appliances or fixtures than that for which it was originally designed.

**Permanent wiring** is any wiring affixed to a structure.

### **PROHIBITED USE**

- Extension cords shall not be used as a substitute for permanent wiring.
- The use of multi-plug adapters, such as cube adapters and strip plugs, is prohibited.

### **APPROVED USE**

- Extension cords are permitted only with portable appliances or fixtures.
- Each extension cord shall be plugged directly into an approved receptacle and shall, except for approved multi-plug extension cords, serve only one fixture or appliance.
- The current capacity of the cord shall be not less than the rated capacity of appliance or fixture.
- The size of the wire conductors shall be No. 16 AWG or greater.
- The extension cord shall be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration, or damage.
- The extension cord shall be of the grounded type when servicing grounded appliances and fixtures.
- Multi-plug extension cords shall comply with the rules and requirements for extension cords and shall be protected from over-current by a 15 amp fuse.
- Extension cords and multi-plug extension cords shall not be affixed to structures, extend through walls, ceilings, floors, under doors or floor coverings, nor be subject to environmental damage or physical impact.