

Extension Cords on Docks and at the Lake

The following safety recommendations should be carefully considered wherever extension cords of any type are considered for used in, on, or near the lake or similar bodies of water. Compliance will significantly reduce the risk of an electric shock drowning or in-water electrocution. Compliance does not, in any case, result in a condition where it may be deemed "safe" to be in the water.

Purpose and Application

- General purpose/utility extension cords are designed and intended (and listed) for use only with 15- and 20-Amp, 125-Volt convenience receptacles.
- General purpose/utility extension cords should never be connected to any other type of receptacle, even where adapters are available for the purpose.
- General purpose/utility extension cords are not intended as a substitute for permanent wiring, or for semi-permanent or long term use.

Usage

- General purpose extension cords are intended for use only for temporary, task-oriented applications.
- General purpose extension cords intended for use outdoors should be specifically identified for such use. A permanent tag attached to the cord when purchased will indicate the uses permitted.
- General purpose extension cord conductors should be adequately sized to the load served (i.e. 12-, 14-, 16-gauge). 18-gauge extension cords are no longer manufactured and should not be used.
- Where used near water, it is recommended that general purpose extension cords be connected (plugged into) only receptacles that include integral GFCI protection, or receptacles that are marked as being protected by an upstream GFCI device (receptacle or circuit breaker).
- Where used near water, it is recommended that the GFCI protection be tested, and reset, before each use.
- General purpose extension cords should always be disconnected, removed, and properly coiled and stored upon completion of the task.
- General purpose/utility extension cords are not permitted to be used for shore power applications and should never be used to establish the connection between any shore power outlet and a boat's shore power inlet, with or without adapters.

General Condition

- Where used, extension cords must be in good repair; free from modifications, splices, excessive wear, damage, cracks, abrasion, burns, etc.
- Extension cords with worn, damaged or missing grounding terminals should not be used.
- Avoid the use of two-wire, non-grounding type extension cords.
- Do not use 'home-made' or user-repaired extension cords.
- Daisy-chaining of extension cords is discouraged, and may be prohibited by the cord's listing.
- Damaged extension cords should be removed from service, destroyed, and properly disposed.

Review the Electric Shock Drowning Prevention Association brochure and other electrical safety information. See www.electricschockdrowning.org and www.electricschockdrowningmn.com.

DISCLAIMER

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