

## Power Tools and Cords

Use only electrical equipment that is UL (Underwriters Laboratories Inc.) approved. However, use of approved equipment does not eliminate all dangers if the equipment is damaged or is used in adverse conditions, such as in rain or wet areas. Corded portable equipment (i.e. corded power tools, electrical equipment, etc.) and supply cords (i.e. extension cords, power strips, etc.) must be maintained in good condition and be suitable for the intended use. For example, the outer jacket of a power cord may appear undamaged but may conceal a broken ground conductor. Also, most electrical equipment manufacturers specify that their equipment should not be used in damp or wet conditions. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) should be used for portable electrical equipment when working outside or in wet/damp conditions.

### Safe Work Procedures

- Inspect tools, power cords, and electrical fittings for damage prior to each use. Repair or replace damaged equipment.
- Verify On/Off switches are in the off position before connecting to a power supply.
- Disconnect the power supply before making adjustments to the tool.
- Make sure tools are either properly grounded or double-insulated. Grounded tools must have a three-wire cord with a three-prong plug. This plug must be plugged into a properly grounded three-pole outlet.
- Do not break off the third (ground) prong on a plug.
- If not using GFCIs then the employer must ensure electrical safety through an Assured Equipment Grounding program – OAR 437-003-0404(3) see also 1926.32(f). Conduct periodic tests of all grounding conductors for effective grounding with a continuity tester.
- Do not bypass the tool's On/Off switch by connecting and disconnecting the power cord.
- Suspend power cords over walkways or working areas wherever possible to eliminate tripping hazards.
- Do not use extension cords as permanent wiring. They must only be used to temporarily supply power to an area that does not have an electrical outlet.
- Do not allow vehicles or equipment to pass over unprotected power cords. Cords should be put into electrical conduits or protected by placing them between two pieces of lumber of suitable strength.
- Keep power cords away from heat, water, oil and other chemical products.
- Do not use light-duty power cords for heavy load applications.
- Do not carry electrical tools by their power cords.
- Do not disconnect the power supply by pulling or jerking the cord from the outlet.
- Do not clean power tools with flammable solvents.
- Do not operate electrical tools in an area containing high levels of explosive vapors or gases.
- Do not overload the circuit by plugging several power cords into one outlet. This would also include "daisy chaining" power strips together.



The information we provide is not intended to include all possible safety measures and controls. In addition, the safety information we provide does not relieve the Members of its own duties and obligations with regard to safety concerns, nor does Oregon Home Builders Association guarantee to the Members or others that the Member's property, job sites and/or operations are safe, healthful, or in compliance with applicable laws,

regulations or standards. The Members remain responsible for their own operations, safety practices and procedures and should consult with legal counsel as they deem appropriate.

SAFETY PAGE MEETING GUIDE

Topic: Power Tools and Cords

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Project: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_ Shift: \_\_\_\_\_

Number in crew: \_\_\_\_\_ Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Safety or Health issues discussed. Include recent accident investigations and hazards involving tools, equipment, the work environment, work practices and any Safety or Health recommendations:

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Follow up on recommendations from last safety meeting:

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Record of those attending:

Name: (please print)	Signature:	Company:
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Supervisor's remarks: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ (Print) \_\_\_\_\_ (Signature)