

UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

SUBJECT: EXTENSION CORDS/POWER STRIPS

Procedure No: S-08-037

PROCEDURE STATEMENT

The use of extension cords and power strips at the University of Toledo shall be limited. Extension cords are prohibited in all clinical areas except for temporary emergency situations. UL listed power strips may be used for in non-clinical areas (outside of the "Patient Care Vicinity") and in those areas approved by Facilities which meet the requirements listed in NFPA 99, 2012 edition, section 10.2.3.6.

PURPOSE OF PROCEDURE

To protect all persons on campus from electrical shock and fire hazards.

GENERAL PROCEDURE

Extension Cords

1. Extension cords shall be used under emergency conditions where no other alternative source of power is available. They must be approved through the Infrastructure Branch Manager through the ICS structure during an emergency.
2. Extension cords will only be used temporarily until the emergency situation is rectified. Cords shall be used in a safe manner so as not to obstruct traffic or present a safety hazard.
3. Extension cords which are equipped with a three wire ground and a resettable circuit breaker which carry a UL label are acceptable.
4. **Under no circumstances** should power strips or extension cords be plugged into one another, as this is an improper use of these devices which can lead to overloading of a circuit and potential for fire.

Power Strips

UL listed power strips may be used in patient care vicinities (a space within the location intended for the examination and treatment of patients extending 6 ft. beyond the normal location of the bed, chair, table, treadmill, or other device that supports the patient during examination and treatment and extends vertically 7 ft. 6 in. above the floor) that are power rack-, table-, pedestal-, or cart-mounted patient care-related electrical equipment assemblies, provided **all** of the following conditions are met:

1. The receptacles are permanently attached to the equipment assembly.
2. The sum of the ampacity of all appliances connected to the receptacles shall not exceed 75 percent of the ampacity of the flexible cord supplying the receptacles.
3. The ampacity of the flexible cord is suitable in accordance with the current edition of NFPA 70, National Electric Code.
4. The electrical and mechanical integrity of the assembly is regularly verified and documented through an ongoing maintenance program.
5. Means are employed to ensure that additional devices or nonmedical equipment cannot be connected to the multiple outlet extension cord after leakage currents have been verified as safe.

Power strips may **not** be used in a patient care vicinity to power non-patient care-related electrical equipment (e.g., personal electronics).

Power strips **may** be used outside of the patient care vicinity for both patient care-related electrical equipment & non-patient-care-related electrical equipment.

Power strips providing power to rack-, table-, pedestal-, or cart-mounted patient care-related electrical equipment assemblies are not required to be an integral component of manufacturer tested equipment. Power strips may be permanently attached to mounted equipment assemblies by personnel who are qualified to ensure compliance.

If power strips are used in any manner, precautions as required by the Life Safety Code and reference documents are required, including but not limited to: installing internal ground fault and over-current protection devices; preventing cords from becoming tripping hazards; connecting devices so that tension is not transmitted to joints or terminals; no "daisy chaining" power strips; using power strips that are adequate for the number and types of devices, and no overloading power strips with high load devices. In addition, the use of ground fault circuit interruption (GFCIs) may be required in locations near water sources to prevent electrocution.

The following approved UL Listed power strips can be purchased through Central Distribution in Dowling Hall on the Health Science Campus:

1. Power strips providing power to patient care-related electrical equipment must be Special-purpose Relocatable Power Taps (SPRPT) listed as UL 1363A.
2. Power strips providing power to non- patient-care-related electrical equipment must be Relocatable Power Taps (RPT) listed as UL 1363.

Source: Safety & Health Committee

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