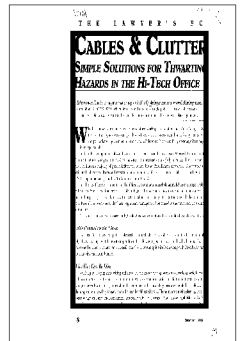




CABLES & CLUTTER **SIMPLE SOLUTIONS FOR THWARTING** **HAZARDS IN THE HI-TECH OFFICE**



Editor's note: The following information is provided by CableOrganizer.com (www.CableOrganizer.com, phone (866) 222-0030), which offers around-the-clock, single-point access to products that serve to manage cable, wire, hardware and other office home or remote office and workplace equipment.

Whether you work from a home or remote office, work spaces are often chock-full of dangers that threaten the physical well-being of those who enter. Coworkers or, at home, family members and pets unknowingly can be in harm's way. While some threats are fairly obvious, others may lurk in unexpected places.

In the office, equipment cables and wires can be a menace—and an expensive Worker's Comp liability. Waiting trip those who pass, office cables and wires are more than an unsightly nuisance. Slips, trips and falls constitute the majority of general industry accidents. In the United States, they cause 15 percent of all accidental, job-related deaths and are second only to motor vehicles as a cause of fatalities, according to the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

In a home office environment, small children and common household animals like cats, dogs, rabbits, and ferrets often see equipment wires as play things—all too often as chew toys. Such a circumstance puts the child or pet at great bodily risk, with electrical shock and strangulation at the top of the list of dangers. Even if the loved one evades harm, significant damage could be caused to the associated electronic equipment.

To avoid a litany of work space perils, CableOrganizer.com offers these simple office safety solutions:

Cable Control on the Cheap

For just a few dollars, computer cables easily can be shielded with split wire loom, flexible and durable polyethylene corrugated tubing with a split down the side where you enter your multicable bundle. If you have to add another wire later on, you easily can slip it into the split wire loom along with the others, without removing the entire bundle.

Wire Fire Can Be Dire

With a glut of equipment, wiring and electrical outlets conducting heat, often over long periods of time and in compact spaces, fire safety is an important work space consideration. In addition to the standard fire extinguisher with which every office should be equipped, other fire safety measures should be employed. Flame spread is one safety consideration that can be addressed easily. Flame-retardant wire sleeving that does not support combustion can significantly reduce office fire hazards. You also can establish an effective insulating barrier to prevent the spread of fire and smoke through structural gaps and voids with Fire-Rated Expanding Polyurethane Foams, a cost-effective way to establish an insulating seal on concrete, brick, wood, metal, aluminum and steel.

Achieve "Lift-Off"

Cables, power adapters, power strips, hubs, modems and other small devices readily can be lifted off the floor and put safely out of harm's way with cable management products such as the Cable-Safe Complete Cable Manager, an effective, inexpensive way to loop, tie and hang "cable clutter" off the floor to reduce work space risks including snags, trips and liquid spills.

Office Chemistry 101

Office settings often contain chemicals that can be hazardous. Many cleaning agents, toners, developers, inks, cleaners and paints contain properties that are classified as hazardous materials. Using chemicals

labeled “environmentally safe, nonhazardous, nontoxic and noncorrosive” is your best bet.

An Important “Mat”-ter

Traction floor mats are excellent for highly trafficked and extended use areas, particularly those prone to moisture or spills. Use a floor mat with beveled edges to eliminate trip risk; those with sponge bases will enhance ergonomic safety, to boot.

Surface Raceways

Wires that lie across the office floor, connecting computers and other equipment to a distant outlet, are among the most dangerous office equipment hazard. They pose a high risk of injuries or damaged equipment (and liabilities related thereto). Surface raceways, made of PVC, are an easy way to organize and protect electrical cords that run along the floor or on the wall.

Cord Protectors

Wire cover systems, or cord protectors, can help eliminate the risk of tripping on loose cables and cords running across a walkway or behind your desk. Cord protectors, which lie flat, can effectively cover, hide and protect cords and cables while keeping floors clear and safe.

Heavy Metal

Whether you want greater protection for your wires from children or animals or need to protect outdoor fiber optics, RG-6 coaxial cable or Category 5E cables from wildlife or the elements, Metal Braided Sleeving, made of tin-coated copper, is flexible and strong and offers electromagnetic interference protection.

Take the Edge Off

Wrap anything with a sharp edge and materials that may break and produce a sharp or rough edge in corrugated cardboard and secure with a heavy-duty tape. This is especially important before placing such items in a trash container.

Get Attached

Be sure bookshelves and cabinets above five feet in height, particularly those which are top-heavy, are secured to the wall with a mount or fastener so they do not fall over. ❖