

# 10 Easy Ways to Prevent Electrical Hazards on the Job

**In honor of May National Electrical Safety Month, advice on protecting employees from electrocution at work**

FORT LAUDERDALE, FL — Award-winning eTailer CableOrganizer.com, among the world's leading purveyors of cable, wire and equipment management-related products for use in business and at home, recently announced 10 easy tips to prevent electrical hazards on the job in honor of May National Electrical Safety Month, an observance sponsored by the Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI). This in an effort to help business owners take an active roll in identifying electrical hazards and in safeguarding their employees from the dangers these hazards pose.

CableOrganizer.com's 10 easy tips to prevent electrical hazards on the job are:

1. Have only licensed electricians install, repair and dismantle electrical wiring. This will ensure the work is completed according to electrical safety codes, promoting greater protection for employees who will be using the wiring to power tools and equipment. Using a professional electrician also prevents injuries that result when ill-qualified individuals attempt electrical jobs that they aren't properly trained to do.

2. Keep extension cords in a safe place where they won't be stepped on or

driven over. The force of a vehicle — or even repeated treading by pedestrians — can cause an extension cord's conductor to become misshapen or break, a problems that can lead to electrical fires. Because it occurs in the core of the cable, conductor damage isn't always obvious to the eye, so play it safe from the start by guarding jobsite extension cords with heavy-duty cord covers.

3. Use the right extension cord for the job. Before you plug in, make sure that the wattage rating of the extension cord you're using is greater than the pull (or power requirement) of the equipment it's powering. Using an extension cord to supply more wattage than it's rated for can cause conductor strain, overheating and possibly even fire.

4. Never modify electrical plugs. Under no circumstances should you ever file down the blades, remove the ground pin, or otherwise modify an electrical plug so that it will fit into a socket — doing so only increases the likelihood of shock, electrocution, and fire. Either have a certified electrician change the device's plug, or replace outdated two-prong receptacles with grounded outlets that can accommodate a ground pin.

5. Ensure that all electrical components stay dry. It's one of the cardinal rules of electrical safety: don't mix electricity and water. Store power tools and cables above water level when not in use,

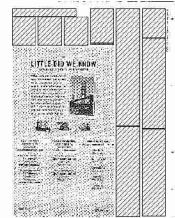
cover outdoor receptacles, and never use electrically powered tools in a wet environment.

6. Check each extension cord before use. Ensure that the cord's insulation is completely intact (free from cracks, tears, or abrasion) and that power extension cables haven't been knotted, which can cause conductor damage and increase the risk of fire.

7. Inspect power tools on a regular basis. Look over the tools' power cords and plugs for any sign of damage to the insulation, blades or grounding pin. If you find signs of excessive wear and tear, take tools out of commission until they've been properly repaired. Maintain awareness during electrical tool use as well; if a tool starts to overheat, smoke, give off a burning smell, or shock you on contact, discontinue use immediately.

8. Check insulated tools for damage before each use. Once the insulation layer of an insulated hand tool becomes nicked, cracked or cut, the tool is no longer effectively insulated — it actually becomes more of an electrical conductor, and can increase your risk of injury. If a tool has damaged insulation, it is no longer safe to use — destroy and replace it right away.

9. Always plug into a GFCI. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter protection is required at every plug-in point — even those associated with a temporary job site's electrical supply — right down to



extension cords. Make sure that only GFCI receptacles are installed, and that portable GFCIs are kept on hand in case additional grounding needs arise.

10. Do a thorough check for electrical wiring before cutting through any wall, floor or ceiling. Any time that a tool inadvertently makes contact with an unseen electrical line, the person holding that tool is likely to be shocked or electrocuted. Always size up the situation before you get started to reduce risk of injury.

CableOrganizer.com offers a wide range of electrical safety products from its Web site at [www.CableOrganizer.com](http://www.CableOrganizer.com).

Among others, these include:

- GFCI receptacles — [www.cableorganizer.com/gfci-receptacles/](http://www.cableorganizer.com/gfci-receptacles/)
- Insulated hand tools — [www.cableorganizer.com/klein-tools/insulated-tools/](http://www.cableorganizer.com/klein-tools/insulated-tools/)
- Heavy-duty cord covers — [www.cableorganizer.com/cord-covers/high-capacity-covers.htm](http://www.cableorganizer.com/cord-covers/high-capacity-covers.htm)
- Extension cords — [www.cableorganizer.com/extension-cords/cool-color-](http://www.cableorganizer.com/extension-cords/cool-color-)

[outdoor-extensioncords.html](http://outdoor-extensioncords.html)

Founded in February 2002 and headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, FL, CableOrganizer.com is a premier cable and wire management-related product vendor. The company provides companies, organizations and individuals around the globe with 24/7/365 access to an extensive array of high-quality products and information resources through its convenient online storefront.

The company also owns and operates [www.CableOrganizer.fr](http://www.CableOrganizer.fr), which is operated out of Rennes, France. CableOrganizer.com also publishes "On the Wire," a free monthly electronic newsletter with a considerable multi-national opt-in circulation base. Among other honors, CableOrganizer.com was named among Inc. Magazine's Inc. 500, Internet Retailer magazine's 2007 "Top 500" and earned a Stevie® Award as the "Best Overall Company of the Year - Non-Services Businesses - Up To 100 Employees."