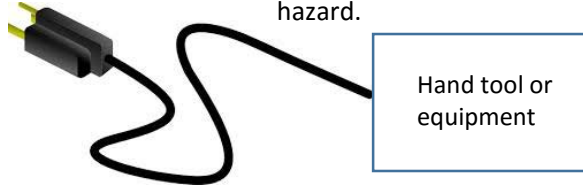


These are acceptable combinations for extension cords and power strips.  
Extension cords and power strips are not to be used together.

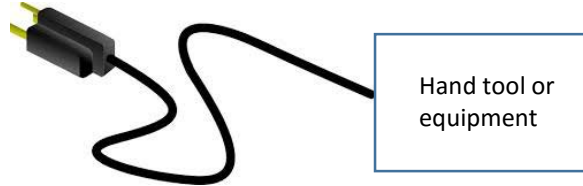
Power strips are also commonly called Surge Protectors or Relocatable Power Taps (RPT's) although there are some differences in their capabilities. For connection purposes they are treated the same regardless of their capabilities.

Power strips/Surge Protectors/RPT's can only be used for low power load equipment such as computers and AV equipment. They are **NOT** allowed to be used for high-power loads such as microwaves, coffee pots, refrigerators, toasters/toaster ovens, or space heaters. Doing so creates a serious fire hazard.



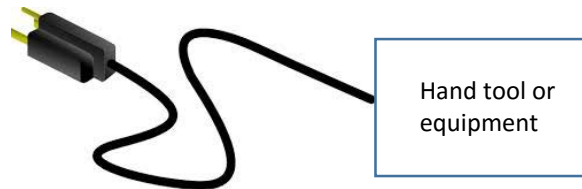
Hand tool or equipment

Extension cords are only for temporary use and are not to be left plugged into wall outlets when not being actively used.



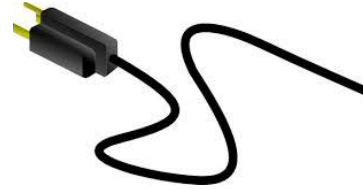
Hand tool or equipment

Below is an example of a hard-wired power strip you may see in some rooms. These usually have 4-24 outlets. Because this is hard-wired into the electrical system an extension cord may be plugged into it. This is the only time it is acceptable to plug an extension cord into a power strip. It is **not** acceptable to plug another power strip in to this type of power strip.



Hand tool or equipment

These are **NOT** acceptable combinations of extension cords and power strips



Hand tool or equipment



Hand tool or equipment



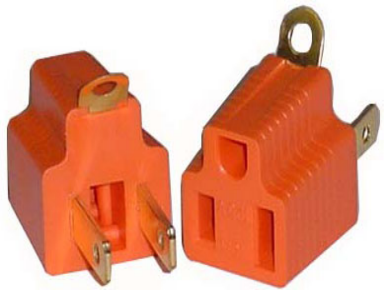
Hand tool or equipment



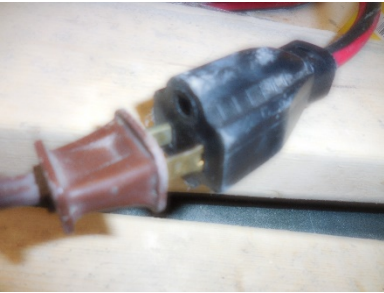
Hand tool or equipment




Hand tool or equipment



To the left is a 3-prong-to-2-prong adapter (also known as a “Cheater Plug”). It allows a 3-prong plug to be plugged into a 2-prong outlet. The metal tab must be secured to the faceplate with the faceplate screw or it is not grounded and provides no protection. Just plugging it into the wall doesn’t provide adequate contact between the tab and screw. It must be secured under the screw. It is the screw itself that provides the ground where it screws in to the receptacle under the faceplate.



This is a 2-prong cord being plugged into a 3-prong extension cord. Although the extension cord has a grounding prong the equipment cord does not. This means the equipment is not safely grounded even though it does have power. It’s the 3<sup>rd</sup> prong that provides the ground. Unless both the equipment cord and the extension cord are 3-pronged the equipment is not ground protected. The exception to this is if the equipment is identified as being double insulated. The words Double Insulated and this marking:  will be on the equipment.

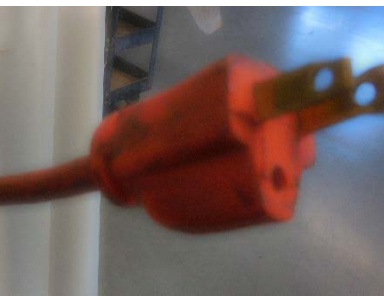
If equipment is double insulated it does not need to be grounded by cord. The equipment is grounded internally. However, some equipment has both the double insulation and a 3-prong cord for added protection.



This is an extension cord for 2-prong corded equipment. Newer cords such as this one are designed so that a 3-prong cord cannot be plugged into it. Some older cords were designed where the grounding prong of a 3-prong cord could fit over the top of the cord so that just the two prongs were inserted into the extension cord. Doing so provides no grounding for the equipment. Do not use cords that let you do that. It defeats the safety grounding provides. If you have any of those older cords they should be discarded.



This plugs into a wall outlet and is considered a power strip even though it doesn’t have a cord. Do not plug an extension cord or power strip into it.



This was a 3-prong extension cord but the grounding prong is missing. Sometimes these are purposely cut off so they will fit into a 2-prong outlet and sometimes they are broken off when people yank the cord out of the wall instead of pulling it out by the plug. Regardless of why it’s missing this cord no longer provides grounding protection. Without the 3<sup>rd</sup> prong there is no ground and the cord needs to be disposed of. No, it is not ok to use this cord with a double insulated piece of equipment because it’s the cord itself that is damaged. If the cord is damaged it needs to be disposed of.