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### **Extension Cord FAQ's**

FAQ's about Cords

Q: What is a type A bulb?

Q: What happens if I exceed the wattage listed on the product?

Q: How many light strings can be strung together?

Q: How many extension cords can be strung together?

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Q: What are amps?

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Q: My dryer cord has three leads but my instructions call out a black, red, and white lead. Which leg is which color?

Q: My dryer cord has four leads but my dryer only has screws for three leads. What do I do with the green lead?

Q: What is a type A bulb?

A: Type A bulb is a normal incandescent bulb.

Q: What happens if I exceed the wattage listed on the product?

A: If you exceed the maximum wattage listed on the product, you are overloading the circuit and risk causing a fire hazard.

Q: How many light strings can be strung together?

A: Light strings should not be strung together. Voltage drops over distance and too much length will cause a cord to starve for power.

Q: How many extension cords can be strung together?

A: An extension cord is meant to carry only a certain amount of current. When the amount of current exceeds its carrying capacity, the cord can overheat and melt. If the cord melts, the two or three wires contained within the cord can get close enough to each other to create an arc of electricity. This arc (or even the heat of the melting cord) can cause a fire. The Cord Gauge versus Amperage Chart shows the amperage drop over distance for various AWG sizes.

Q: How do I know which extension cord to use with my power tool?

A: The rating on the power cord (amperes and volts or watts) should equal or exceed the rating of the power tool. To calculate the watts, multiply the amps times the volts. Conversely, to find the amps from the watts, divide the watts by the volts. Use the Cord Gauge versus Amperage Chart to select the proper AWG size for the length needed.

The plug configurations should also match. Do not force different configurations together.

Q. My power strip has a circuit breaker but house breaker keeps tripping?

A: Power strips have become very popular these days. People see 6 to 8 outlets and a small circuit breaker and assume it's ok to plug in the works. First off, the small breaker in the power strip protects only the power strip from overloading itself. It does nothing to protect the household wiring. Plug an 8 outlet PS into a 15 amp receptacle circuit with 8-10 outlets already on it and now you've got 12-15 outlets on a 15amp receptacle circuit. This is why your circuit breaker in your panel trips, it's overloaded. An additional circuit would be required to resolve this problem.

Q. What are amps?

A: Amps is an abbreviation for amperes. Amperes is the technical term for the amount of current flowing through wiring. A good analogy has always been to think of amps as water pressure through a pipe. Low pressure, the water trickles out but high pressure and that hose can, knock the socks off you. Wiring is sized to handle different amperes, therefore your circuit breaker / fuses are rated for different amperes. Circuit breakers protect wiring.

Q. Why do my fuses blow/circuit breakers trip?

A: Fuses protect the wiring from an overload (excessive current). If your fuses or circuit breakers blow, this is an indication that circuit has been overloaded. This could be caused by too many appliances plugged into a single outlet, or too many rooms (outlets & lights) connected on 1 circuit.

Q. How do I hook-up my dryer cord?

A: Please consult your dryer's user manual for the correct installation instructions for your particular model. The explanations given below are of a general nature and may not apply to your brand or model. If you are still unsure after reviewing the instructions, please consult an licensed electrician or authorized installation professional.

Q. My dryer cord has three leads but my instructions call out a black, red, and white lead. Which leg is which color?

A: The two outer legs are the black and red legs. These are the "hot" conductors and it does not matter which outer leg attaches to the black and red screws. The middle leg is the "neutral" and it attaches to the white screw. Please check your owner's manual to determine how to properly ground your dryer.

Q. My dryer cord has four leads but my dryer only has screws for three leads. What do I do with the green lead?

A: The black, red, and white leads should be attached to the matching color coded screw on the panel at the back of the dryer. Off to the side of the panel, you should find a green screw or a screw marked "ground", "GRN", or "GRD". The green lead should be attached to this screw. Please check your owner's manual to determine if you need to remove a bracket or other connection between the white and green connections.