

# NOBLESVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT



## CODE ENFORCEMENT DIVISION

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## Electrical Guidelines

Improperly installed and maintained electrical equipment is a significant cause of fire in the United States. In addition, improper electrical installations can cause injury or death due to electrocution.

### General Electrical Guidelines

- Electrical appliances and fixtures should be tested and listed by an approved agency (UL or similar).
- Electrical appliances, fixtures, and wiring should always be used in accordance with all manufacturers' instructions.
- Do not overload the capacity of any electrical device, including extension cords and power strips.
- Open electrical splices and junction boxes are not permitted.
- Approved covers should always be installed on switch boxes, outlet boxes, and junction boxes.
- A working space of 30" width, 36" depth, and 78" height should be maintained at all times in front of electrical panels.
- Electrical panels should have all breakers labeled as to their purpose.

### Extension and Flexible Cords

- Extension and flexible cords cannot be extended through walls, ceilings, or floors, run under doors, through windows, or under floor coverings.
- Extension and flexible cords should not be affixed to structures, or be subject to environmental or physical damage.
- Extension and flexible cords should be maintained in good condition without splices, deterioration, or damage.

### Extension Cords

- Extension cords are not intended to replace permanent wiring, and as such are only permitted to be used in temporary situations and with portable appliances.
  - Temporary use: typically less than 30 days - Christmas lights, vacuum cleaner, etc.
  - Portable appliances: meant to be moved easily from one location to another
- Extension cords should be plugged directly into a wall outlet.
- Be very careful not to exceed the capacity of the extension cord.
- In place of extension cords, use a power strip with overcurrent protection.

### Multiplug Adaptors

Multiplug adaptors permit multiple electrical devices to be plugged into one receptacle, but do not contain overcurrent protection. Multiplug adaptors are not permitted at any time. If multiple devices must be plugged into the same outlet, use a power strip with overcurrent protection.

### Power Strips

Power strips may be used, if they are plugged directly into a wall outlet and contain overcurrent protection. Overcurrent protection is a fuse or resettable switch that will trip if the device begins to draw more current than it is designed to carry. The cords on a power strip must meet all restrictions noted in the extension and flexible cords section above.

Disclaimer: This may not be a complete list of all code sections involving this subject, and is not the actual code that regulates this subject. Please reference the adopted codes in the state of Indiana (<http://www.in.gov/dhs/2490.htm>) for complete information.