

ELECTRICAL SAFETY PRINCIPLES

Worker's often work with a variety of electrical equipment which may expose them to electrical shocks. Tasks can be performed safely when safety principles are applied throughout the day. Some tasks may carry greater risks for injury if specific procedures or instructions are not followed.

General electrical safety principles would include:

- Keep your fingers or other materials off the prongs of a plug while inserting it in an outlet.
- Power tool/appliance plugs must match the outlet. Never modify a plug in any way.
- Before using any tool, electric, gas or non-motorized, check to ensure it is in proper working order. Ensure there are no cracks, splits, damaged guards, damaged cords or any other damage/excessive wear and tear that could lead to an injury if it were used.
- Never use the cord for carrying, pulling, or unplugging a power tool, appliance, or other equipment. Pulling on the cord could damage the cord and increased the risk of shocks.
- Do not use damaged cords or receptacles or cords that feel warm.
- Do not use untested or damaged extension leads.
- Do not expose power tools to rain or other wet weather conditions. Do not plug, use, or unplug electrical equipment with wet hands or while touching a wet or damp surface or standing on a wet surface.
- Do not use piggyback plugs (can be used for lighting in drama & art areas with supporting risk assessment)
- Never perform maintenance or repairs, remove a stuck item, or insert anything other than what is specified for the appliance when it is plugged in.
- When using power boards, these must have overload protection and each outlet on the power board has its own on /off switch.
- When moving, raising, or lowering beds, ensure that they do not come into contact with the receptacle or cords plugged into it.
- Never touch an electrocuted victim until the power has been turned off.
- Report any additional safety concerns to your supervisor.

