

Campus Fire Safety

Extension Cords

Universities are sources of sheer engineering creativity as we attempt to reconcile our aging electrical infrastructure with the realities of today. Most of our buildings were built before the advent of the personal computer and other electronics goods (air purifiers, microwave ovens, hair dryers, stuff that we can't seem to live without). To keep everything running, we use extension cords, cube taps and all types of homemade contraption; we plug our extension cords into other extension cords and our homemade contraptions into other homemade contraptions.



The use of extension cords may seem innocuous, however the local fire inspectors have found some instances on campus of imminent danger from their use! While the fire code does permit the use of outlet strips, they must be grounded, fused directly and connected to a permanent receptacle and not plugged into each other or an extension cord. We encourage you to seek technical advice on how to safely provide power for your needs, and to do so you contact the WAU Department of Facility Services at 301-891-4161 or the WAU-Department of Public Safety, Fire Safety Division at 301-891-4019.