

Unexpected Ways Fires Start

#5 Source: Electrical Fires

The Problem:

Overloaded extension cords, hidden electrical shorts, bad connections and oversized bulbs and fixtures can ignite nearby combustibles and burn down your house!

A True Fire Story:

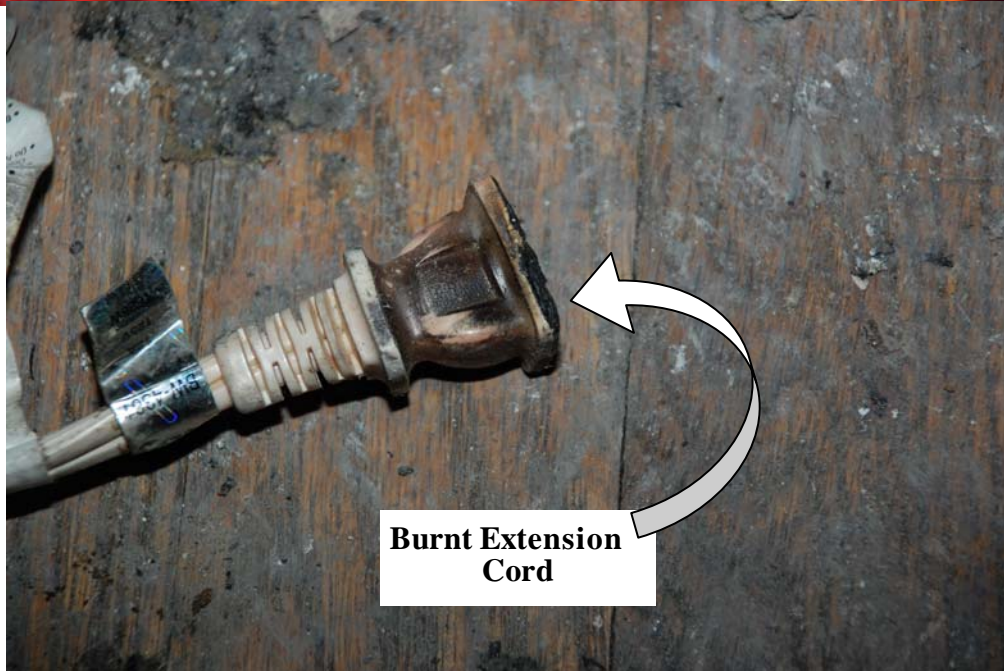
The Statistics:

9%
of fires,
10%
of deaths

A man in SE Roanoke lost his house and his beloved family dog when an extension cord caused a fire in his two story house after he went to work. The cord ignited a rug which spread to the entire house.

Electricity and heat caused by shorts, overloading or bad connections go hand in hand. The heat generated is often enough to ignite combustibles such as wood framing, rugs or even the insulation around the cord or wire. There are telltale clues to look for which can tip you off to dangerous concealed wiring hazards:

- Electrical cords that are warm to the touch
- Charred or plastic burning odors
- Warm switch or receptacle plate covers may mean a poor electrical connection.
- Frequently tripping circuit breakers



Burnt Extension
Cord

The Solution:

- Replace extension cords that are undersized or frayed.
- Never run extension cords under rugs.
- Use a power strip instead.
- Never plug a space heater into an extension cord!
- Call an electrician to track down hidden problems causing frequently tripping circuit breakers.
- Check all the light bulbs in your home to make sure bulb wattages don't exceed the fixture's recommended maximum.



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