Misuse of extension cords, powerbar and multi-tap receptacles has contributed to increasing report of electrical fires and fatalities in Ontario. Consumers are encouraged to use these devices safely by;

* Select the appropriate device for the application. Not all cords, powerbars or receptacles are created equal. Manufacturers generally do not recommended cords for appliances that generates heat. Some cannot be used in wet location. Most cords are not designed to be used for long periods with heavy loads, especially when left unattended or overnight. Check the rating of the cord before its use. Always follow manufacturers’ instructions as they will indicate how many device or type of device allowed in the plug.
* Use only certified products. Approved certification agencies can be found on https://www.esasafe.com/consumers/safety-and-security/product-safety/recognized-marks
* Ensure cords are free of kinks, exposed wires and other damage.
* Use only light load appliances with multi-cord and multi-tap receptacles.
* Unwind extension cords from its spool to allow heat to escape while in use.
* Do not use flexible extension cord for permanent application. Most extension cord requires venting when used to cool the cable down when plugged in.
* Do not overload the device. Plugging appliances that draws a lot of load to multi cord extension or multi-tap receptacles will result in overheating which can result in a fire.
* Do not use an extension cord for a portable heater or air conditioning unit since most cord will overheat and catch fire.
* Do not place extension cord under carpet on under legs of furniture. The carpet does not allow cords to cool down, can overheat and catch fire.
* Flexible extension cord must never take the place of permanent wiring. They are not designed for permanent installation that the insulation property are not as good as permanent wiring, thus lead to over-heating and fire.
* Some retailers and/or manufacturers publish guidelines on cord selection, including recommended length for type of appliance.

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| **Appliance** | **Amp Used** | **Appliance** | **Amp Used** |
| Hair Dryer | 10 A | Satelite TV box | <0.5 A |
| Toaster | 9 A | Printer | <0.5 A |
| Clothes Dryer | 11 A | Computer monitor | <0.5 A |
| Iron | 12.5 A | Laptop | <0.5 A |
| Microwave | 4.5 A |  |  |
| Vacuum cleaner | 9 A |  |  |