

# Energy Saving Ideas

## “Labor” safely on Labor Day - by Christine Grammes

For many people, Labor Day is a day of rest. For others, it's a day to catch-up on outdoor home projects before the season changes. Faulty extension cords are often a source of injury when working outside, as well as metal ladders coming into contact with an electrical source. By following the tips below, you can “labor” safely on Labor Day.



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Extension cords and power tools:

- Check power tools and electrical cords to make sure they are in good condition. Power tools should be designed for outdoor use.
- Extension cords should be designed for outdoor use. They are thicker, more durable and have features for preventing moisture damage.
- Use three-wire extension cords with three-pronged plugs.
- Look for the amperage rating of the extension cord to make sure it will meet the power demand of the tool.
- Do not plug one extension cord into another. Use the proper length for the job.
- Never leave an open extension cord that is plugged into an outlet. Unplug the cord when you are finished using it.

Ladders:

- Use fiberglass or wood ladders when working around overhead power lines or electrical sources. Metal ladders conduct electricity and can be fatal if the ladder comes into contact with electricity.
- If you must use metal, carefully check the location of all overhead wires to avoid contact.
- Lower the ladder when carrying it or moving it.
- Never work on a windy day, as a gust of wind could shift the ladder into an overhead wire.
- When placing the ladder on the ground, make sure the distance to the nearest overhead wire is at least twice the length of the ladder.
- Make sure the ladder is placed on solid, level ground to prevent sliding.

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