

How to Pick the Right Outdoor Extension Cord



Type	Solution	Benefits
Outdoor Lighting	Use a 16-gauge extension cord for light-duty lighting up to 100 feet, or upgrade to a 14-gauge cord for multiple strings or more powerful lights.	Ensures safe power delivery, prevents voltage drop, and keeps lights bright and consistent while withstanding outdoor conditions.
Lawn Equipment	Choose a 14-gauge cord for distances up to 50 feet and a 12-gauge cord for 50 to 100 feet. For heavy-duty tools or longer distances, use a 10-gauge cord.	Provides sufficient power to operate tools effectively, prevents overheating, and ensures the longevity of equipment motors.
Safety Practices	Use outdoor-rated cords with "W" markings, avoid chaining cords together, and use tools like voltage drop calculators to verify your choices.	Minimizes fire and shock risks, maintains stable power supply, and ensures safe and efficient operation of tools and appliances.



Gauge (AWG)	Max Amps (up to)	Max Length	Ideal Use Examples
18	5-7	25 ft	Small lamps, chargers
16	10	50–100 ft	Fans, light fixtures, patio lights
14	15	50–100 ft	Medium-duty tools, exterior lights, hedge trimmers
12	20	100 ft	Leaf blowers, lawn mowers, heavy-duty equipment
10	30	100+ ft	Industrial, high-powered tools, compressors