

Extension Cord Gauge Chart

Four makers' charts. When they differ, use the heaviest gauge (the lowest number).

DEWALT, NAMEPLATE AMPS (120 V)	25 FT	50 FT	100 FT	150 FT
Up to 6 A	18	16	16	14
Over 6 to 10 A	18	16	14	12
Over 10 to 12 A	16	16	14	12
Over 12 to 16 A	14	12	Not recommended	Not recommended

CAROL, DISTANCE FROM THE OUTLET	UP TO 10 A	UP TO 15 A
0-50 ft	16	14
50-100 ft	16	12

SOUTHWIRE CORD (ITS RATING)	25 FT	50 FT	100 FT
16 gauge	13 A	13 A	10 A
14 gauge	15 A	15 A	13 A
12 gauge	15 A	15 A	15 A
10 gauge	20 A	20 A	20 A

MILWAUKEE, NAMEPLATE AMPS	25 FT	50 FT	75 FT	100 FT	150 FT
0-2 A	18	18	18	18	16
2.1-3.4 A	18	18	18	16	14
3.5-5 A	18	18	16	14	12
5.1-7 A	18	16	14	12	12
7.1-12 A	16	14	12	10	None
12.1-16 A	14	12	10	None	None
16.1-20 A	12	10	None	None	None

Amps are on the nameplate. Watts divided by 120 gives amps. Columns are the cord's length, except Carol's (the distance from the outlet). Between two columns, read the longer one. None: no gauge at that length.

If the manual for what you're plugging in has its own cord table, follow it. If in doubt, use the next heavier gauge. Check the cord's rating on its tag or packaging. Extension cords should be at least 16 AWG, unless they are 18 AWG with fuse protection.

Use one cord long enough for the job instead of joining two. The UL 817 warning tag says: "Do not plug one extension cord into another." Extension cords are for temporary use. A hot cord may be overloaded. Unplug it. Check its rating against what's plugged into it.

Sources: DeWalt DWS713 and Milwaukee 5268-21 manuals, Carol and Southwire catalogs, CPSC 5032, OSHA (UL 817).