



# Safety & Environmental Newsletter

October 2019 Issue – 90th Edition

## Power strips and Daisy chains

The number of available electrical outlets is inadequate in most older buildings. Extension cords or surge protected power strips are often interconnected, or “**daisy chained**,” to provide more outlets and/or to reach greater distances. However, interconnecting these devices is a violation of Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and the National Electrical Code.

Daisy chains constitute some of the most common violations identified during safety inspections. OSHA regulations require that conductors and electrical equipment be used in accordance with the conditions under which they are approved by a recognized testing organization (29 CFR 1910.303(a)). OSHA only allows extension cords to be used as temporary wiring for up to 90 days. Any cords in place over 90 days have to meet the requirements of permanent wiring.



**Electrical current overload can result in a fire.** Electrical resistance increases with power cord length. Interconnecting cords increases the total resistance and results in heat generation. This creates an additional risk of equipment failure and fire.



Some solutions to this common problem are:

- Desks and associated equipment may be moved so they are closer to existing outlets.
- Consideration can also be given to the merits of installing modular furniture that provides multiple outlets at each workstation.
- Daisy chains can be replaced by a power strip with a power cord of adequate length to reach an outlet.

Several factors should be considered when selecting an appropriate surge protector. It is important to consider the amperage requirements of the devices to be energized. Choose one whose length is most appropriate for reaching the intended room outlet. Avoid having excess cord that could get in the way and cause a trip hazard. Check each surge protector to make sure it is in good condition for use. Only power strips equipped with internal fuses are acceptable as permanent wiring.

## New Process for Project Review and MOSI Application

The new review process for all GSFC projects and MOSI application are now available and live!

Check out the MOSI Application here: <https://mosi.ndc.nasa.gov/EnvironmentalSafetyReview/>

The new system replaces the process of completing and submitting checklists via email, WIIMS Environmental Task Review, or Code 360/250 initiation of reviews, and streamlines the review process.

Training sessions are currently being scheduled to introduce your teams to the new review process and MOSI application. The training can be scheduled with ongoing staff or project meetings and should only take about 30-45 minutes. **Please contact Shari Miller (x2327) [shari.a.miller@nasa.gov](mailto:shari.a.miller@nasa.gov) or Michelle Leimbach (x2156) [michelle.l.leimbach@nasa.gov](mailto:michelle.l.leimbach@nasa.gov) to schedule training.**

# MOSI



Management Operations Services and Information

## Environmental and Safety Review



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## -PREVENTING CLOGS-

In our day-to-day lives, we don't always stop to think about our sanitary or septic systems. It is easy to take for granted their convenience in removing waste from our homes and offices, but not all types of waste are suitable for disposal in our toilets and drains. Some items that you might not think about can clog your pipes and cause severe damage to sewage pumps, septic pumps, and grinder pumps that could clog the sanitary system or render your septic system useless. Here are some of the items shouldn't flush.



## Don't Flush These!

- “Flushable” and-baby wipes
- Condoms
- Cotton swabs
- Dental floss
- Diapers
- Hair clippings
- Disposable Gloves
- Paper towels
- Panty liners
- Sanitary napkins
- Tampons
- Medicines
- Anything that does not dissolve readily in water

These items can all cause damage to pipes and pumps. Many of these items aren't biodegradable, so even if they don't immediately clog your pipes, they may build up and lead to disaster in the



## Other Items to Avoid

- Cat litter
- Cigarette butts
- Dryer sheets
- Cooking oil
- Drywall dust
- Explosive or combustible materials
- Plastic of any kind
- Paint

These common household items should never end up in toilets or drains.

Flushing any of the items listed in this newsletter can result in clogs, tripped circuit breakers, blown fuses, pump short-cycling, weak pump flow, and reduced pump capacity. Avoid these problems by only flushing appropriate waste!

## “Flushable” Wipes Aren't Flushable

In *Consumer Reports'* standard tests, toilet paper breaks down quickly. But when testers ran the same test with the flushable wipes they didn't break down at all. *Consumer Reports* gave up after ten minutes. Testers even ran them for ten minutes in a mixer, the wipes still didn't break apart.

*Consumer Reports* did find that after soaking overnight, two of the products did break down, Cottonelle and Scotts. But even after 12 hours, the ones from Charmin and Equate still stayed in one piece.

*Consumer Reports* advice: if you use these products, don't flush them down the toilet.

<https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/business/Consumer-Reports->

