

Overhead Retractable Cord Reels

DT Workshop Equipment Reference — D&T / STEM resource for school workshops | Electrical & Power

An overhead retractable cord reel hangs a power lead from the ceiling, spring-reeling it back when not in use so it stays out of walkways, off the floor and always within reach. It is the tidy, safe way to power a bench or island workstation.

Key Features

- Mounted to ceilings or brackets
- Spring return reels the cord
- Lengths 10-25 m typical
- Thermal overload protection
- Switch or socket variants

Typical Uses in the Workshop

- Power island benches without floor cables
- Supply power across machine bays
- Keep leads out of the way between uses
- Reach work areas from a central point

Safe Operation

1. Pull the cord out to the needed length
2. Let it retract gently, guiding the plug
3. Check the latch holds at full extension
4. Do not pull at an angle against the spring
5. Switch off before winding in

SAFETY NOTES

- Do not let the cord retract uncontrolled
- Never connect machines while the reel moves
- Check the reel brake works
- Route the cord clear of people swinging
- Inspect the cord for cuts especially at the outlet

Maintenance & Consumables

- Check the spring and brake mechanism
- Inspect the cord along its full length
- Clean the reels and brackets
- Test the thermal cut-out yearly
- Lubricate moving parts per the maker

Specification & Buying Notes

Choose reels rated for the loads used and with a latch brake. Buy with a ceiling bracket and the correct plug type. Quality reels retract fast and stay reliable.