



Energy Efficiency: Save With Power Strips

(General)

What is an Advanced Power Strip?

An advanced power strip or (APS), is similar to an ordinary power strip or power bar, with the exception that it is designed to not only protect electronics or small appliances from being overloaded by a power surge, but also prevent phantom loads. An APS is an economical and easy to install device that will save you money on every electricity bill.

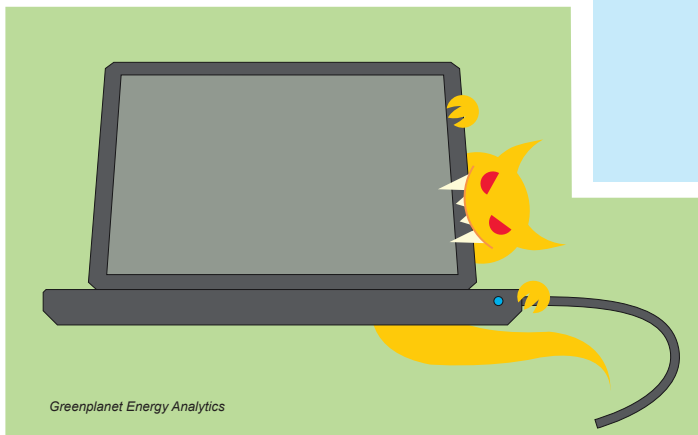


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What is a Phantom Load?

When devices or appliances are turned off they still consume small amounts of energy. The amount of energy consumed daily is relatively small, but over the course of a year it really adds up. This results in wasted utility costs and a negative environmental impact. We call this phantom load.

By turning off the “Master Device”, such as a video game console or desktop computer, the APS will then switch off the complementary devices, such as speakers or printers. To be most effective, they should be used in areas with multiple devices in a concentrated area, such as home entertainment systems, computer stations or in garage shops.



Greenplanet Energy Analytics

Energy Savings

Many ACFN homes have entertainment and computer equipment plugged in and drawing standby power when not in use. Significant energy savings can be achieved by using advanced power strips to automatically cut power to plugged in equipment (e.g. gaming console, DVD player, speakers, printer) when the TV or computer is turned off. Over long periods of time, a significant amount of power is wasted, adding unneeded greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. An APS will pay for itself in energy savings in the 1st year!

What About Regular Power Strips?

Even regular power strips can help by allowing you to turn off a main switch for multiple electrical devices. You just have to remember to do it. There are even power strips with built-in timers to help. And you might want to consider using a power strip that has a surge protector built in.

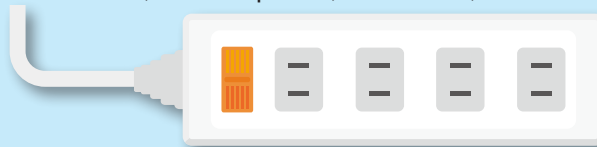
Surge Protectors

Don't confuse surge protectors with power strips - they're two very different things. Only surge protectors will protect your devices from a power spike!

A surge protector has one job: detect excess voltage and divert the extra electricity into the grounding wire. (They have a third prong on the plug and need to be plugged into a grounded outlet.)

The primary culprits of electrical surges are devices that demand a lot of electricity (like furnaces) turning on and off, which put a lot of strain on the electrical system.

You only need a surge protector for expensive devices that have complex electronics, like computers, televisions, and media centers.



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An APS can pay for itself in energy savings in only 1 year!!



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