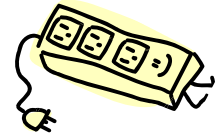


## **Surge Protector, Electrical Extension Cord and Power Strip Safety**

Every year, thousands of injuries, fires and deaths result from surge protector, electrical extension cords and power strips. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSO) estimates that about 4,000 injuries, 3,300 fires and 50 deaths occur each year. The major accident patterns associated with these devices is namely children putting them in their mouths, overloaded, worn or damaged cords or from tripping over cords.

Listed below are some suggestions to help prevent a possible fire, injury or death from happening when using surge protectors, electrical extension cords or power strips:



- ❖ Use only surge protectors or power strips that have an internal circuit breaker.
- ❖ At any time if the surge protector or plug strip is hot to the touch remove and replace the unit.
- ❖ At no time expose a surge protector, electrical extension cord or power strip to a moist environment unless specified by the manufacturer.
- ❖ At no time use a surge protector, electrical extension cord or power strip that has frayed, exposed or damaged wires.
- ❖ Never repair the damaged wire.
- ❖ Do not plug a surge protector or power strip into an existing surge protector or power strip. This practice is called “daisy chaining” or “piggy backing.”
- ❖ All surge protectors or power strip need to be UL (Underwriters Laboratory) or ETL (Electric Testing Laboratories) approved.
- ❖ Never remove the UL or ETL label from the unit.
- ❖ There should only be one surge protector, electrical extension cord or power strip plugged into a single duplex electrical outlet.
- ❖ Do not cover a surge protector, electrical extension cord or power strip with carpet, furniture, rugs, newspapers, clothing or any other item that will limit or prevent air circulation.
  - ❖ In locations where furniture may be pushed against the cord use a special “angle cord.”
  - ❖ Do not staple, tack, or tape a surge protector, **electrical extension cord** or power strip to **any surface**.
  - ❖ Visually inspect all surge protectors, electrical cords and power strips on a regular basis to ensure that they are not damaged or showing sign of degradation.
- ❖ When the surge protector, electrical extension cord or power strip are not in use, unplug the unit.
- ❖ Always use a surge protector or power strip that has a polarized plug with one of the blades being bigger than the other one or a three-prong grounded plug.
- ❖ Never use a three to two plug adapter to power a surge protector, electrical extension cord or power strip.
- ❖ Insert plugs fully into the outlet so that no part of the prongs on the plug is exposed when in use.
- ❖ Contact with live prongs can result in electrocution, use care when inserting or removing plug from outlet.
- ❖ When disconnecting the cord, pull the plug rather than the cord itself.
- ❖ Surge protectors or power strips should never have a cord more than 6 feet in length.
- ❖ Use extension cords only when necessary and only on a temporary basis.
- ❖ Make sure the cord from a surge protector, electrical extension cord or power strips cord does not dangle from the counter or table top where it can be pulled down or tripped over.
- ❖ Never use a surge protector, electrical extension cord or power strip while it is coiled or looped.
- ❖ Buy medium or heavy-duty extension cords and avoid bargain brands.
- ❖ Read all information and warnings on the package.
- ❖ Keep conductive material, such as steel wool, metallic cleaning cloths and flammable or corrosive chemicals/solutions away from source of electricity.

