

Do Surge Protectors Actually Work?

Odds are, the electronic devices you use are plugged into strip extension cords that also provide point-of-use surge protection. These types of surge protectors provide the minimum level of protection for everyday household items. But is that really enough protection for your home electronics?

At the very least, you should use surge protector for all of your electronic devices. They will save the life of your electronics by preventing small surges from reaching your devices. Many people think that a surge protector is the same thing as a power strip when in fact this is not true, though they look very similar. Make sure you are using surge protectors by looking on the device for an electric rating. A surge protector will have a rating in Joules of energy, as well as the maximum voltage it can take from a power spike. If you find those numbers either on the box it came in or on the strip itself, then it is a surge protector.

If your computer is connected to the phone lines via a modem you should get a surge protector that has a phone-line input jack. If you have a coaxial cable line hooked up to expensive equipment, consider a cable surge protector. Surges on these lines can do just as much damage as surges over power lines.

For the ultimate protection from anything larger than minor power surges (such as lightning), you should consider a whole house surge protector. This costs approximately \$300 and is a system of surge protectors working together to eliminate surges from a number of external sources. A massive power surge is an unlikely event, but it could cost you all your electronic devices. Prevention is best.