

Power Strips vs. Surge Protection



Aren't power strips and surge protectors the same thing? They may look similar, but they are not the same.

Power Strips - These are commonly found in many households to increase the amount of items that can be plugged into an outlet. They commonly have 4-6 outlets and may include places for USB cables to charge smaller devices. Advancements in technology have led to "smart" power strips that can sense that an electronic is not in use. This saves electricity by reducing the amount of current that may be trickling through a plugged in device that is on standby. Power strips cannot protect electronic appliances during a power surge.

Surge Protection - Surge protectors come in many different forms. Some can have multiple outlets, like a power strip, others can be for the whole house. A qualified electrician can install and answer questions regarding whole home or outlet protection. Surge protectors protect electronics by moderating the current flowing to the plugged in device. This keeps electronics safe by making sure that there is no overloaded push of electricity that can burn out delicate circuits.

Why is surge protection so important? Power surges can happen at any time. The most common misconception is they mostly happen during thunderstorms. In reality, they can happen at any time.



Faulty wiring in a home, restoration of power after an outage and general fluctuations in power supply are the most common reasons for power surges. All electronic devices can have a shortened life due to these disruptions. Spending money on devices to protect them can save money in the long run.

When shopping for any kind of electrical device, be sure to check for a UL listing. This listing represents a nationally recognized test to ensure the safety of the product. Many products available on the market today have not

been tested or approved for safe use. An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure and when it comes to electronics spending money on protection for electronics can prevent replacement in the event of a power surge.



Managers Comments

by Matt Haggerty

PARK SPARKS
MARCH 2022

Park Electric has seen continuous growth over the last few decades. In fact, the number of services and members has increased by over 60% in the last 20 years. To keep up with this growth and keep costs down we had to make many changes. The following are a few examples of the changes we have made in both our operations and billing departments.

In the billing department, Park Electric has encouraged our members to utilize the Automatic Bill Payment method. This is an automated system of payment maintained by our staff and used by approximately 34% of our members. This program has greatly reduced the amount of time staff uses to process bill payments. If it weren't for this program, our staff would be manually processing all 7,000 bills each month. That's not just a savings in time, but in productivity as well. Another change Park Electric has made over the past 10 years was changing to an automated metering system that integrates with our billing system. Many of our members may still remember the days of reading their own meter and passing this information along to us. These changes, and

many others, have allowed us to maintain consistent staff levels and still meet the needs of our growing membership.

Our operations department cannot necessarily be automated in the same ways. In order for our operations department to keep up with the growth, Park Electric has had to buy more equipment, tools, and materials to keep the lights on.



Housing this expanded collection of equipment requires more space. In 2021 Park Electric's board of trustee's approved the budgeting of a building expansion. The expansion is scheduled to start in April and its estimated completion is November of this year. This expansion will be stretching out the east side of the existing main building. Once it is completed it will increase the area we will have for our warehouse and the heated truck barn for our line crews.



Even though our membership has grown our focus remains the same; to provide our members with reliable electricity at fair and reasonable prices.

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- Electrical safety information
- Energy saving tips and tricks
- Upcoming events in the area
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- Scholarship and trip information for local students
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