

# How to choose an outlet **surge suppressor**

Simply plugged into wall outlets, an outlet surge suppressor stops runaway voltage entering your home through phone, modem and cable-TV from damaging your valuable electronic equipment.

To make sure you get the right outlet surge suppressor, look for products that meet the specifications below.

## **Four minimum specifications to look for and what they mean:**

### **UL 1449 listed**

- Conforms to Underwriter Laboratory's standard UL 1449 for transient voltage surge suppressors or Surge Protective Device.
- UL 1449 listing is required for safety. UL listing as a "power tap" is not sufficient.

### **Peak surge current**

- Also referred to as maximum transient current or maximum surge
- If you have surge suppression at your meter or circuit panel, 36,000 amperes is sufficient.
- Without surge suppression at your meter or circuit panel, look for 54,000 amperes or higher.

### **UL 1449 suppressed voltage rating**

- Also referred to as clamping voltage
- 330 volts gives the best protection; higher voltage ratings give less protection.

### **Energy rating (joules)**

- 700 joules or more; the higher the joules, the better
- Since testing methods for energy rating are not standardized, don't base your choice on a joules energy rating alone.

## **Other important features**

Depending on your electronics and appliances, you might consider the benefits of using a surge suppressor with these other optional features.

### **Phone and cable TV protection**

- To protect a TV, VCR, telephone, fax or computer, buy a surge suppressor with TV cable connectors and/or phone jacks.

### **Extra surge suppressor connectors and outlets**

- Several outlets for each piece of equipment
- Room for AC adapters (transformers)

### **Indicators**

- Status or warning lights to indicate that the device is working (not just that the power is on)

### **Electrical noise protection**

- For electromagnetic interference (EMI)
- For radio-frequency interference (RFI)

### **Warranty and insurance**

- Warranty on surge suppressor of at least five years
- Warranty on connected equipment of \$10,000 to \$25,000 or more

**Portland General Electric**