

How to choose an **uninterruptible power supply (UPS)**

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

Selecting the right service device

Consider a UPS as an inexpensive way to provide backup power to computers and office equipment with an interruption in utility power occurs. UPS devices for home applications are “plug and play” –that is, you can install them yourself. Most home UPS devices will use a design called “standby UPS”. This type of UPS is in standby mode and supplies power to equipment when an outage occurs. A line-interactive UPS is a standby UPS which filters power that protected devices receive by adjusting for voltage variations without having to use battery power. A line-interactive can also filter out line noises and control frequency.

To make sure you get the right size UPS with the options you need, look for products that meet these specifications

- **UL 1778 listed** – Conforms to Underwriter Laboratory’s standard UL 1778.
- **Size** – Depending on your equipment protection needs, you could use a 450 VA UPS to protect one computer and a monitor. A 650 VA UPS should be considered the minimum size needed to protect a file server. For answers to questions about sizing up your home needs, call the Power Quality Hotline at 503-736-5750 or 800-270-7016 or E-mail us at TCC.Power.Quality@pgn.com.
- **Time** – Typical protection time a with a line-interactive UPS last anywhere from 5-30 minutes.

Options to look for in line-interactive UPS devices

- **UPS performance monitoring**–Feature that constantly checks device as operational
- **Automatic network shutdown software** – Shuts downs all open computer applications so no data is lost.
- **Extension for battery run time** – Some UPS devices offer extensions for a longer battery run time (how long the UPS can support equipment on its battery).
- **System interface** – Capability to activate alarms or communication when an outage occurs.