

City of Palo Alto Utilities

Save Your Property With Surge Suppressors



Surge Suppressors can greatly reduce damage from sudden power loss, high voltage or power surges. Although the City of Palo Alto Utilities operates and maintains a reliable electric system, storms, tree limbs in lines or other natural occurrences can cause power interruptions. Your sensitive electric equipment including computers, TVs, VCRs, stereos, garage door openers, home security systems, lighting controls and appliances are easily protected by installing surge suppressors in your home.

SURGE SUPPRESSOR TIPS

- Call the manufacturer of the equipment you would like to protect to obtain suppressor specifications.
- In general, select a surge suppressor that has a UL 1449 listing, clamping voltage between 300-600 volts, and the ability to handle energy of 100 joules or more.
- Purchase surge suppressors from quality hardware or computer stores.
- Install a surge suppressor at each appliance with plug in styles or at the main service panel.

*Although surge suppressors can significantly reduce the damage caused by high voltage and spikes, they cannot completely eliminate problems.

OTHER TIPS TO PROTECT YOUR EQUIPMENT

When you purchase new electric equipment, look at specifications like:

- Ride-through capability
- Voltage fluctuation
- Internal surge protection
- Use separate circuits for high-energy appliances like your refrigerator, washer, and dryer.
- Get equipment with battery backup and replace the battery yearly.
- Check your wiring and grounding for indications of a loose wire connection.
- Buy a power conditioner to ride through power sags and interruptions.

MORE OPTIONS

Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS): A UPS unit offers electricity in the event of an outage. Before you purchase a UPS, decide how much time you need to provide energy without data loss or damage to your equipment.

Portable/Standby Electric Generators: Properly installed generators can provide backup power for critical medical equipment during an outage.



* Note: Improperly installed or operated portable/standby electric generators may cause injury or death. Hire a licensed electrician to properly size and install in accordance with the National Electrical and the City of Palo Alto Building Codes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about power surges and their control, call Utilities Engineering at 566-4533.

ELECTRICITY | FIBER OPTIC | WATER | NATURAL GAS | WASTEWATER

