The Fiber Download

Power Strips and Surge Protectors Are Different But They Often Look A Lot Alike

Some differences:

——— A Power Strip is basically an extension of a wall outlet that just provides more outlets for multiple devices. It may have a switch to quickly shut off power to the outlets but doesn't necessarily do Surge Protection.

——— A Surge Protector, or sometimes called Surge Supressor, will look a lot like a Power Strip. It will have an extension cable to plug into the wall outlet with multiple outlets to plug in extra devices. Though the Surge Protector is going to have electronics built into it to help protect against power surges that can damage your equipment.

Surge Protectors will sometimes include a dollar amount that it will cover for the equipment that is plugged into that Surge Protector. If that equipment is damaged, the manufacturer may cover the cost of the damage up to the amount listed. The catch is that the Surge Protector must be used correctly. We recommend reading the documentation included on the proper usage of the Surge Protector. Using it in any other manor than what is instructed will void any coverage damage.

Surge Protectors will have a Joules Energy Rating listed on the packaging. It is recommended not to exceed the usage the Surge Protector is designed for. Meaning you would not want to get the least expensive and lowest Joules Rating and then use it for a high end home theatre system that would have a Joules Rating much higher than the rating on the Surge Protector.

Surge Protectors are going to be a little more expensive than a simple power strip.

Most Surge Protectors will have a light next to the word protected or protection. If the light is on, it usually indicates the Surge Protector is still good and is protecting the devices plugged in. If the light is not on, then the unit could be bad and might need to be replaced.

Sites to See

Watch this section for new or popular internet sites you may want to explore.

- www.staysafeonline.org
  The National Cyber Security Alliance (NCSA) builds strong public/private partnerships to create and implement broad-reaching education and awareness efforts to empower users at home, work and school with the information they need to keep themselves, their organizations, their systems and their sensitive information safe and secure online and encourage a culture of cybersecurity.

Cybersecurity Tips:

If you connect it, protect it: Your best defense is to keep device security software, web browser and operating systems up to date.

Spotting Email Phishers: 1) They often disguise themselves as someone you know. 2) They offer financial reward, threaten you or claim to need help. 3) They ask for your personal info. 4) They want you to download a file or click a link.

Public Wi-Fi is not secure: Avoid logging in to personal accounts, like email and financial sites when you don't recognize the connections. If you must connect to public Wi-Fi, consider using a virtual private network (VPN) or personal hotspot.

We can all play a part in making our interconnected world safer.

Do Your Part.
#BeCyberSmart.

October is National Cybersecurity Awareness Month.
Visit staysafeonline.org for cybersecurity tips.