

Smart Power Strips

Prevent Phantom Power



Smart power strips are designed to sense usage and automatically shut off electricity, saving up to \$100 a year in energy costs.

What is Phantom Power?

Phantom power is electricity drawn by appliances and electronic devices that are idle or turned off. When electronics are plugged in they will draw phantom power even if turned off. Phantom power accounts for about 20 percent of the energy used by electronics. It is not often noticed, but the costs incurred from phantom power can add up quickly. The average American owns roughly 25 consumer electric devices; therefore, a large amount of electricity can be lost to phantom power.

What Are Smart Strips?

Smart strips are energy efficient intelligent surge protectors. Smart strips are designed to 'sense' usage and automatically shut off electricity to the outlets holding devices that are not in use. These surge protectors can save up to \$100 a year in energy costs. Along with energy saving outlets, smart strips also include a few outlets with a continuous flow of electricity for devices that must always have electricity, such as DVRs, motion lights and alarm clocks. Smart strips are available at discount, office supply and hardware stores.

Tips for Using Smart Strips:

- Use smart strips on lamps, chargers, computer monitors, televisions, cable boxes and stereo systems.
- Store smart strips indoors when not in use.
- Make sure the smart strip preset power threshold is sensitive enough for the electronics being used.
- Plug DVRs into an "always on" outlet in the smart strip.
- Do not use smart strips on wired smoke detectors, thermostats, alarm systems, stove clocks, washers, dryers or motion lights.
- Do not use smart strips outdoors, near water or in wet conditions.



Use a smart strip for DVD players, game systems, printers and chargers.



Put items on standby to help prevent phantom power.



The above image illustrates devices that usually draw phantom power.



How to Choose a Smart Strip

Choosing a type of smart strip depends on what is being plugged into it. There are four main types of smart strips.

1. Regular smart strips that manage the outlets based solely on the amount of energy flowing through each individual outlet.
2. Smart strips with a control outlet, which will shut off power to all other monitored outlets when the device plugged into it is shut off.
3. Smart strips with a motion sensor that will shut off electricity to the entire strip when it detects that no one has been in the area for a designated period of time.
4. Smart strips that have a timer built into them that will turn the electricity on and off at preset times.

Other Ways to Avoid Phantom Power

- Unplug electronics when they are not in use, especially chargers when electronics are fully charged. Electronics continue to draw power when nothing is connected to them and they draw even more power when the device is fully charged, but still connected.
- Turn electronics completely off when not in immediate use. Putting them on standby mode still uses power so that they are ready to respond when reactivated.
- Set computers and game consoles to sleep or standby when they have not been used for a few minutes. The sleep or standby mode uses less energy than leaving them paused.
- Prior to vacation, unplug electronics and small devices (i.e. television, stereo system, computer and printer).
- When shopping, look for ENERGY STAR® qualified electronics. They have lower standby consumption and prevent 25-75 percent of the phantom power produced by regular electronics.
- Use a watt meter to discover how much power electronics require to function and determine whether there are more energy efficient options. Watt meters are available to borrow from the Herrick District Library in the Electricity Home Monitoring Kits!

Buy a smart strip today!

HBPW offers a \$10 rebate if you purchase a smart strip! Visit hollandbpw.com/rebates for more information and the rebate form.

- 1 Smart strips are energy efficient intelligent surge protectors and are designed to sense usage and automatically shut off electricity to the outlets holding the devices.
- 2 Phantom power accounts for 20 percent of the energy used by electronics, and smart strips can help prevent phantom power.
- 3 Smart strips can help you save up to \$84 a year without any hassle!



To avoid phantom power, look for ENERGY STAR qualified electronics.



Choosing the right smart strip depends on what is being plugged into it.