

12 MONTHS OF RESEARCH SAFETY MARCH 2025

Proper Application and Use of Power Strips

Also known as:



Relocatable Power taps (RPTs), Plug Strips, Surge Protectors, Temporary Power Taps, Transient Voltage Surge Suppressors (TVSS) What they are not:

Extension cords, Temporary Wiring

- Use only listed (NRTL approved) RPTs.
 - Inspect for damage before use.
 - Follow the manufacturer and UL instructions.
 - Use RPTs only for low power loads (<5 A/600 W).

Ensure that: RPT is listed by a Nationally recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) -UL is the most common.

> **Remove and replace** any existing power strips that are not ULlisted.



Know that: Standard

Waterproof RPTs are

available for locations

subject to spills.

RPTs are for use indoors, in dry locations only.







Refrain from: Permanently mounting RPTs (this includes the use of cables ties) **RPTs should be mounted** according to manufacturers standards using slots or keyholes.

Refrain from: Running RPT cords through doorways, windows, holes in walls, structural ceilings, suspended ceilings, floors, or under rugs or carpets



REMEMBER

- Frequently inspect RPTs for damage (cracks to the plastic, damaged cord or plug, and evidence of overheating). If damaged, remove from service and replace with a new one.
- Do not exceed the load (ampacity) rating of the device or outlet. High-current equipment (>5A, >600W), such as appliances and larger lab equipment, are to be plugged directly into the wall.

APPROVED SURGE PROTECTORS

- · Fire & Life Safety and Facilities Services have reviewed and approved the following surge protectors for safe use in labs, available from Grainger:
 - Preferred: TRIPP LITE 6-foot surge protector #TLM626
 - If additional length is needed: TRIPP LITE 15-foot surge protector #PS-615-HG-OEM
- · Longer lengths and extension cords must not be used. If your lab needs additional power sources, place a facilities work order for additional outlets.

Questions?

CONTACTUS

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Report an Incident, Injury or Safety Concern Here

DON'T Use RPTs outdoors, or in damp/wet locations.

• Custom fabricate power strips.

- Daisy-chain RPTs together or use with extension cords.
- Permanently mount RPTs.