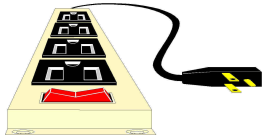




## NEW YORK STATE UNIFORM FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING CODE



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# Electrical Power Strip Safety

During routine fire safety inspections, electrical power strips - also known as “Relocatable Power Taps” by Underwriter Laboratories (UL), are often found to be in use - primarily with computer systems. The following information about power strips will help to ensure safe use and compliance.

## INTENDED USES

- For indoor use as a temporary extension of a grounding alternating-current branch circuit for general use (UL 1363)\*,
- To supply laboratory equipment, home workshops, home movie lighting controls, musical instrumentation, and to provide outlet receptacles for computers, audio and video equipment, etc\*.

## INSTALLATION

- **DO NOT** series connect (daisy chain) a power strip to other power strips.
- **DO NOT** connect a power strip to extension cords.
- **DO NOT** route the cord of a power strip through walls, windows, ceilings, floors, etc.
- **DO NOT** use a power strip as a substitute for fixed wiring.
- **DO NOT** keep a power strip on the floor where it can be subjected to physical damage.  
Note: Many power strips have a fragile internal connection that can be damaged by repeated movement or jarring by a broom or vacuum during routine cleaning or by the feet of a person under a desk. Fires can result when this connection is damaged, so it is important that a power strip be placed above the floor.
- **DO NOT** exceed the capacity of the power strip and the circuit. Always use caution when adding multiple computer components (printer, scanner, etc.) and/or other appliances to the strip.
  
- **DO** connect a power strip directly to a permanently installed wall outlet.
- **DO** securely mount a power strip in a safe location away from physical damage. Consider using the pre-drilled mounting holes found on the back of many power strips.
- **DO** inspect the condition of a power strip on a routine basis. Check the condition of the cord and plug, test the reset button, and make sure all plugs are firmly inserted into the outlets of the power strip and wall outlet.
- **DO** discard the power strip and replace with a new one, if the power strip feels hot, or if a defect is found.
- **DO** look for a power strip with a built in fuse or reset button., to help prevent power overloads.
- **DO** look for a power strip that offers surge protection, for use with a computer or other sensitive electronic products.
  
- The basic standard used to investigate products in this category is UL 1363, “Relocatable Power Taps.”
- The Listing Mark of Underwriters Laboratories Inc. on the product is the only method provided by UL to identify products manufactured under its Listing and Follow-Up Service. The Listing Mark for these products includes the UL symbol together with the word “LISTED,” a control number, and one of the following product names, as appropriate: “Relocatable Power Tap,” “Power Tap” or “Outlet Strip.”
  
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- In closing, by following the information above for electrical power strips, the chances of an electrical fire occurring can be reduced and compliance will be maintained. You may also consider consulting a licensed electrician to have an electrical analysis performed to ensure that all of your wiring, wall outlets and multi - outlet power strips are in current Underwriter Laboratory (UL) and National Electrical Code (NEC) compliance.

