



TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS RISK MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION

# RISK REMINDER

PARTNERING WITH TOWNSHIPS

## Safety Tips for Power Strips

Power strips are very useful for completely shutting off power to the electronic devices that are plugged into them. This conserves the energy that is wasted by electronics that continue to use small amounts of power when they are on standby mode and are not actively in use.

Examples are cell phone chargers, remote control TVs, DVD players, microwave ovens (to power the clock), and computers.

*Here are some safety tips to help you use power strips safely:*

- ◆ It is possible to overload power strips, causing them to overheat and potentially catch on fire. If a power strip shows any signs of discoloration from overheating, replace it immediately.
- ◆ Read the manufacturer's recommendations accompanying the new power strip to avoid over loading it.
- ◆ Take care to not overload the house circuit that the power strip is plugged into.
- ◆ Be sure to only purchase power strips that bear a seal of approval from a recognized testing lab, such as UL (Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.).
- ◆ For your safety, do not connect power strips together in series or to extension cords. Power strips are intended to be connected directly to a permanent wall outlet.
- ◆ Power strips are not intended for use at construction sites, nor are they intended to be permanently secured to building structures, tables, or work benches.
- ◆ Do not use power strips as substitutes for fixed wiring.
- ◆ Never route power strip cords through walls, floors, windows, or ceilings. And don't run the cord under a rug.
- ◆ Do not use power strips near water or wet locations.
- ◆ In addition, do not exceed maximum cord and plug load limits. According to the NEC and NFPA, the maximum load should not exceed 80% of the manufacturer's rating. This means the maximum load on a 15 amp power strip is 12 amps. Examples of high amperage equipment that should not be plugged into power strips include: refrigerators, freezers, coffee pots, space heaters and microwave ovens.



*Copy of Overloaded Power Strip  
Courtesy of Underwriters Laboratories*

**For more product safety information from Underwriters Laboratories, go to: [www.ul.com](http://www.ul.com)**

**For more information, contact TOIRMA at (888) 562-7861**  
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