

8 Best Surge Protectors | August 2016

We spent 33 hours on research, videography, and editing, to review the top options for this wiki. Don't let power spikes cost you money. Protect your expensive electrical and electronic equipment with one of these advanced surge protectors that can also save you money and reduce your carbon footprint by shutting off unused devices. [Click here to see our #1 pick](#) on Amazon.

8 Best Surge Protectors 2016



Top 8 Surge Protectors 2016



Overall Rank: 7
Best Mid-Range



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Overall Rank: 8
Best High-End



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Overall Rank: 6
Best Inexpensive



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8

The **TRIPP LITE TLP26USBB** is more at home on a nightstand or on your desk than it is on the ground. It includes a handy slot for tablets and phones, and has multiple USB ports suitable for gadgets of all kinds.

[\\$ See Price](#)

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7

The **APC P11VT3 3020J 11-Outlet** was designed to reduce output noise, and its resulting super quiet function makes it ideal for use in home movie theater setups, libraries, or anywhere else where power is needed and silence is golden.

[\\$ See Price](#)

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6

This incredibly basic but wholly reliable single outlet **Tripp Lite SPIKECUBE**

works great with expensive and power hungry equipment like treadmills, large televisions, and more. It's perfect for taking along when you travel.

[\\$ See Price](#)

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5 Cut your power usage dramatically without compromising on surge protection with the incredibly well-built **TRIPP LITE TLP76MSG**. It features seven plugs in total, six of which have their own on/off switches.

[\\$ See Price](#)



- emi/rfi line noise filtering
- good spacing between outlets
- wall plug sticks out too far

Brand Tripp Lite
Model TLP76MSG
Weight 1.7 pounds

[Auctions](#) [ebay](#)

4 Conserving electricity is a breeze with the ultra efficient **Belkin Conserve Energy**

Saving Outlet.

It automatically shuts off power when it's not in use to lower your energy bill and reduce your carbon footprint at the same time.

[\\$ See Price](#)



- useful for lighting, decorations
- three convenience/safety timer options
- compact size fits in small spaces

Brand Belkin
Model F7C009fc
Weight 4 ounces

[Auctions](#) [ebay](#)

3

The uniquely designed and multi-functional **Accell D080B-015K Powramid** offers great power connectivity to multiple users. It is perfectly suited for conference room tables, computer labs, or other collaborative environments.

[\\$ See Price](#)



- dual usb charging ports
- enhanced fire safety
- power stopping ability

Brand Accell
Model D080B-015K
Weight 1.7 pounds

[Auctions](#) [ebay](#)

2

The **Tripp Lite TLP606** is a traditional power strip that offers just as much surge protection as the other units on our list, but at a fraction of the cost. When a basic example of a given technology suits its purpose, why upgrade?

[\\$ See Price](#)



- indicator light informs user of issues
- \$20,000 lifetime guarantee
- includes one transformer outlet

Brand Tripp Lite
 Model TLP606
 Weight 1.1 pounds

[Auctions](#) [ebay](#)

1

The **Belkin 12 Outlet** allows the hookup of large AC plugs, such as those built into boxes, along its sides. Six smaller plugs can hook up in the center. Its large plug capacity and versatility makes it an overall great option.

[\\$ See Price](#)



- remains cool to the touch

Brand Belkin

[Auctions](#) [ebay](#)

- remains cool to the touch
- 4000 joules of protection
- offers maximum continuous voltage

Model BV112230-08
Weight 2.2 pounds

Spike The Punch, Not Your TV

It's a safe bet that in today's digital age, most people own many electronic devices, including mobile phones, tablets, expensive flat screen televisions, computers, and other very large appliances around the house requiring lots of power. It stands to reason, then, that protecting all of your devices from overloads and power spikes is just as important as initially investing in them. The last thing you want is to spend all of that money on your brand new Sony LED television only to have it burn out, thanks to a spike in electricity during a lightning storm. That's where the [surge protector](#) comes in handy.

Also referred to as a **surge suppressor** or **surge diverter**, a surge protector is a device designed to protect electrical appliances from voltage spikes in your home or place of business. This is accomplished by either blocking or *shorting* to ground any unwanted voltage spikes that occur above a particular threshold. By *ground*, we mean a reference point to which electric currents can be measured in the context of a direct physical connection with the Earth itself.

It's important not to confuse a surge protector with a [power strip](#). By contrast, a power strip has several available outlets for plugging many of your devices into one location. Many surge protectors have several outlets as well. However, that doesn't mean that the power strip also functions as a surge protector in every case. The good news is that many power strips do have built-in surge protection capabilities, hence your common use of the power strip in your bedroom. Just make sure you look at a power strip's specifications in the store before you buy it. Also, don't be afraid to ask if you aren't sure.

Surge protectors usually have ratings listed in [joules](#) along with the maximum amount of voltage they can withstand from a power spike. If a power strip is listed with a joules rating, then it's usually equipped with surge protection functionality.

Response time is important to be aware of, as the device won't operate instantaneously. There is typically a delay, so the response time is proportional to the amount of exposure that a plugged-in device will experience during a power spike. The longer the delay, the higher the exposure.

Surge protectors often include one of several primary electronic components, which include a *metal oxide varistor* (MOV), *transient voltage suppression diode* (TVS), *thyristor surge protection device* (TSPD), and a gas discharge tube (GDT) among others. These components all serve to divert unwanted energy away from the protected load through shunting. Regardless of the technology used, your ultimate goal is to protect your most expensive investments. Consider a surge protector a relatively affordable form of insurance for your appliances.

It's Time To Surge Forward

If you own several electronic devices and plan to use them all in the same place, then finding an affordable surge protector with the most [available outlets](#) is important. This is particularly helpful in bedrooms with many devices like clock radios, televisions, standing fans, etc. Finding a surge protector that's narrow is also a good thing if your intended location gets a lot of foot traffic. After all, you don't want people unnecessarily tripping over a bulky surge protector unit or accidentally unplugging your devices.

Finding a surge protector with a low **clamping voltage** is also a good idea. The lower the clamping voltage, the less power it takes before the protective components of your surge

clamping voltage, the less power it takes before the protective components of your surge protector start to work and shunt the excess power. A maximum clamping voltage of 400 volts or less is generally recommended.

Surge protectors also come in many different shapes and sizes. For example, if you need one for a conference room, finding one with a circular shape and built-in USB ports might be useful, since the protector's footprint would be small, while having enough outlets for multiple users to plug in for presentations.

On-board, diagnostic **LED indicators** alerting you to the status of line interference also help to prevent damage to your plugged-in devices, which is definitely useful as device technology becomes more complicated.

Finally, you need to consider where your wall outlet is and the length of the power cord that leads to the surge protector. Keeping the device in an accessible, yet unobtrusive location will make it easy to plug in the rest of your electronics without too much cord clutter.

History And Future Of The Surge Protector

One of the first surge suppressors was developed by the General Electric company in the 1950s. Around the same time, similar devices appeared in Japan. The earliest forms of surge protectors used **selenium rectifiers**, which contained components used to convert direct current (DC) into alternating current (AC) power. Later used were disc-shaped carbon piles for carrying the power currents.

Most modern surge protectors use **spark-gap** technology, meaning that the device will break down/suppress the electrical currents as the voltage reaches the maximum tolerance or rating for the device itself. In today's market, you can also find whole house surge protectors with an access panel if the idea of having several power strips with the technology built in isn't to your liking.

The future for surge protectors focuses more on enhancing their design rather than reinventing the wheel entirely. For example, some new models have been developed to incorporate resistance to both **noise** and **phone line interference**, while others offer redesigned outlet configurations for accommodating transformers and very tight spaces.



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