

# Lightning PC And Designs

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## Protecting Your Computer against Lightning and power surges

Is your computer protected against lightning and power surges? Even a slight surge can do expensive damage your computer, scanner, and printer; in the worst case scenario it can completely and irreparably damage all components inside the tower, including the total loss of all your valuable data, files, photos etc.

### How can you protect your computer against these?

The way to protect your computer from lightning and power surges is to use a good surge protector. Don't be confused. A power strip, which is a simple strip of outlets, is not necessarily a surge protector. A surge protector may look like a power strip, but it has built-in protection against power surges.

A good surge protector should offer four features.

1. The surge protector should cover lightning strikes. Some do not.
2. The surge protector should offer insurance to cover the loss of properly attached equipment.
3. If you have a regular modem or a DSL connection, get a surge protector with an RJ-11 telephone jack where you can hook up your telephone line.
4. If you are using a cable modem, get a surge protector that will also accommodate your television/Internet cable.

Damage can occur regardless of whether the computer is on or off. While surge protectors offer protection for normal surges and nearby lightning strikes, nothing will protect your equipment from a direct lightning hit. During storms, you can add further protection by unplugging your computer power supply and any telephone or cable line from the wall. Although it is not absolutely necessary to do this, unplugging your computer equipment during a severe storm may give you added piece of mind.

### Installing your Surge Protector

Installing your surge protector is easy. When you get your surge protector home, plug it into the wall and then plug your computer equipment into it. If you purchase a surge protector with a telephone or cable jack, you run the telephone or cable line from the wall into the surge protector. The surge protector will come with an extra telephone or cable wire that you will then use to connect the surge protector to your computer or modem. Please don't forget to protect your telephone or cable line. Judging from my experience, many modems are lost during lightning storms. Even prudent consumers who have purchased surge protectors sometimes forget to add that extra protection for their telephone or cable line.

### Protection for your Cable/Telephone Line

Try to buy a surge protector that will accommodate all of your equipment. Because of slight differences in electrical currents, it is best to plug all equipment into the same source if you can. If you have any equipment that has a large power block, look for a surge protector where the outlets are spaced farther apart to accommodate the power block.