

Subject: Relocatable Power Taps (Power Strips)

A Relocatable Power Tap (RPT) is often called a “surge protector” or “power strip,” and is available with a power cord between 1.5 and 25 feet in length. The Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD) requires that power strips within OPWDD certified settings shall bear the ETL test marking UL1363 or UL 1449 on the label.



Power strips are designed for use with many low-powered loads such as computers, peripherals, or audio/video components. Power strips evolved from the invention of computers and their associated hardware all needing their own receptacle, such as monitors, printers, speakers, etc. These peripheral devices have a very low *total* power usage. A total computer work station may only use 5 amps of current, while a single coffee maker may use up to 10 amps.

Power Strips are NOT:

- Extension cords.
- To be used outdoors or in damp locations.
- To be used at construction sites.
- To be run through walls, ceilings, floors, windows, under doors or floor coverings.
- To have staples, tacks, or tape attached to any part. Screws can only be placed where manufacturer allows.
- To be permanently attached to tables, walls, floors, or work benches.
- To be used with any type of power adapter.



Inappropriate Loads

The following items are never to be plugged into a Power Strip:



- Refrigerators
- Freezers
- Coffee Pots
- Space Heaters
- Microwave Ovens
- Toasters
- Toaster Ovens
- Medical Equipment

Proper Use for Power Strips

- Only use in indoor, dry locations.
- Directly connect power strips to a permanently installed receptacle.
- Placed in a location to avoid physical damage; should be located so all receptacles are readily visible.
- Power strips cannot be connected in series (daisy chained, piggy backed), to other power strips, or extension cords.
- The physical mounting of the device shall not require the use of tools to remove.

All Staff are Responsible to Monitor the following:

- Visually inspect all power strips on a regular basis to ensure there are no signs of damage or degradation.
- Ensure all plugs are fully pushed in.
- Unplug any power strip that is not in use.

If at any time a power strip is hot to the touch, has frayed wires, is damaged, or is not working properly, **immediately remove it from service.**

Surge protectors, power strips, or extension cords are not a substitute for permanent wiring. If you do not have enough electrical outlets to meet your needs, you should request a review by Work Control.