

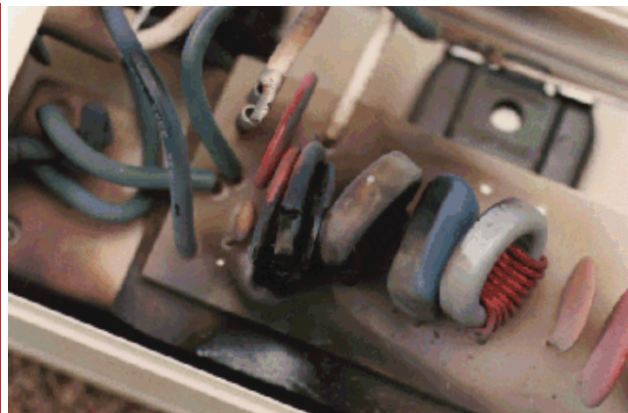
# CAUTION: IMPROPER SURGE PROTECTORS CAN CAUSE FIRES

We use them on a regular basis to protect our electronics, but many people are unaware of the danger surge protectors can cause with improper selection and use. Typical products contain components called metal oxide varistors (MOVs) that can overheat and explode.

In 2013 alone, 15 million surge protectors were recalled due to catastrophic fires and personal injury. If you are using an MOV-type surge protectors or are considering their use, please read the following.



Burn marks inside a typical MOV suppressor.



MOVs are sacrificial and degrade with use.



A failed MOV suppressor caused this 2016 NJ house fire.

- Traditional surge protectors account for 34% of fires involving transformers or power supplies.
- Do not overload surge protectors or uninterruptible power supplies (UPSes). Check power rating before use.
- Do not permanently mount plug-in surge protectors.
- Do not plug one surge protector into another or use extension cords to connect to outlets.

- If the housing has burn marks (soot, discoloration), discard immediately.
- Do not place protectors on carpeting, near curtains, or near other flammable surfaces.
- Avoid using protectors in plastic housings. Metal housings impede fires better.
- Shake the surge protector periodically and listen for loose parts. Discard if it rattles.

- Do not use MOV-type surge protection in ungrounded outlets.
- Replace traditional surge protection every 6 months to 2 years, depending upon surge environment.
- Check to see if your surge protector has been recalled by the Consumer Product Safety Commission by searching [www.Recalls.gov](http://www.Recalls.gov).