

SMART POWER STRIPS

Most homes and office space have traditional power strips to expand the number of electrical outlets. While convenient, many electronic devices plugged in will keep drawing power even when you are not using them. Printers, DVD players, computers and plasma TVs, for example, are products with standby modes that make them convenient to use, yet they consume significant power during standby modes. This so-called phantom power drain costs you money, wastes electricity and ups your carbon footprint.

Smart power strips, on the other hand, work to reduce your power usage by shutting down power to products that go into standby mode. Switching to power strips can yield significant savings in your electric bill. Statistics vary, but experts say standby power consumption in an average home ranges from 5 percent to 10 percent of your household energy consumption. It can also account for about 1 percent of worldwide carbon dioxide emissions.

