

# ***Power protection***

Vancouver Island may have “clean power” in the eco-friendly sense, but not in the burn-out-your-sensitive-electronic-equipment sense. Spikes, surges, over-voltages, under-voltages, electrical noise, brown-outs, and blackouts are all fairly common here ... mostly due to the combination of wind and trees we have.

What can you do to prevent these issues from damaging your sensitive electronic equipment?

You could spend \$5-\$30 on a power bar or surge protector to plug your equipment into, but they only protect against spikes and surges of particular shapes and sizes.

The better answer is a UPS, or Uninterruptible Power Supply. A UPS is a basically a power bar with a battery inside, and typically cost \$100 or more. It takes the wall voltage, whatever it may be, and gives the attached equipment only clean power from the charged battery. It protects against (nearly) all of the issues mentioned in the first paragraph.

More than half of all hardware failures are due to power issues. Even electrical noise, over time, can wreck sensitive electronic hardware. If you are lucky, a power glitch will only burn out your power supply. If you are not so lucky, it can burn out your motherboard, CPU, RAM, and even your hard drive (you know ... the thing that holds all your precious data!).

Teky recommends surge protectors for laptops and UPSes for desktops and other expensive electronic equipment. The better UPSes will even shut down your computer properly if a blackout lasts longer than the battery can run the attached equipment. A 550KVA UPS is typically enough to run one PC and monitor for 30 minutes ... giving you time to finish and save your work before shutting down.



***Computer problems? We can help.***

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