Field Guide 21

Proper Application and Use of Relocateable Power Taps (RPTs)

Also known as:

Power Strips, Plug Strips, Surge Protectors, Temporary Power Taps, Transient Voltage Surge Suppressors (TVSS)

What they are not:

Multioutlet Assemblies covered by NEC 380, Power Distribution Units (PDU's) for IT Equip covered by UL-60950, Extension Cords, Temporary Wiring

DO !

- Use only listed (NRTL approved) RPTs
- Inspect for damage before use
- Follow the manufacturer and UL instructions
- Use RPTs only for low-powered loads

DON'T !

- Custom fabricate power strips
- Use RPTs outdoors, and in damp/wet locations
- Daisy-chain RPTs together or use with extension cords
- Permanently mount RPTs

RPTs must be listed by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL).

Custom fabricated RPTs are not permissible.

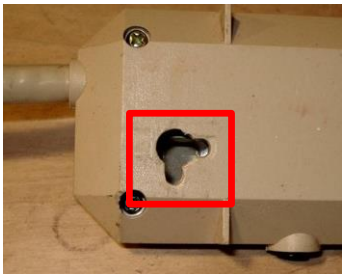
Relocateable Power Taps are listed under UL Standard 1363. Transient Voltage Surge Supressors (TVSSs) are dual-listed under UL Std 1449 and 1363.

See the back side for NRTLs.

RPTs are for use indoors, in dry locations only.

They are not for use on construction sites, and similar locations, and should not be used in fume hoods, or other locations subject to spills.

Relocateable Power Taps may not be daisy-chained, or used with extension cords.



RPTs may be mounted per manufacturer instructions with slots or keyholes.

They are not to be mounted permanently such that tools are required for removal.

Prior to use, Relocateable Power Taps are to be inspected for damage. Inspect for cracks to the plastic, damaged cord or plug, and evidence of overheating.

If any damage is found, immediately take the Relocateable Power Tap out of service.

Cords of RPTs shall not be run through doorways, windows, or similar openings.

Cords shall not be run through holes in walls, structural ceilings, suspended ceilings, floors, or under rugs or carpets.

Do not exceed the load (ampacity) rating of the device or outlet.

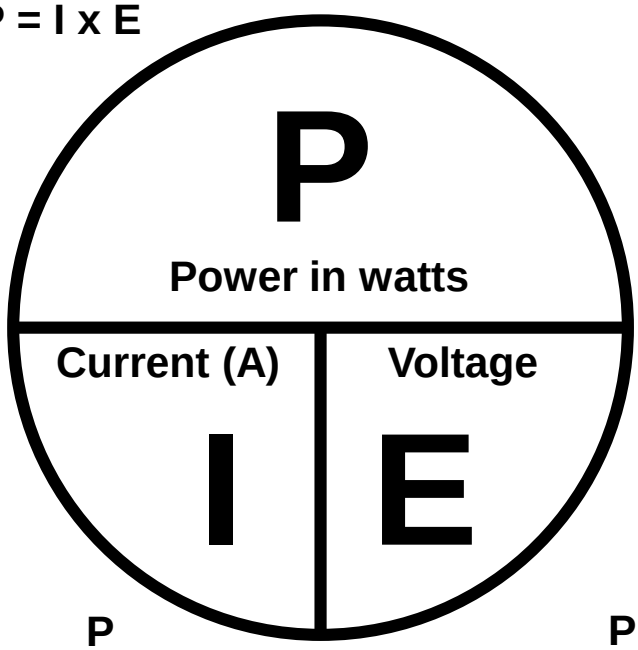
RPTs are for a high concentration of low-powered loads, like computers and electronics.

High-current equipment, such as space heaters, and appliances are to be plugged directly into the wall.

Maximum cord-and-plug load on 15A outlet is 12A

Maximum cord-and-plug load on 20A outlet is 16A

$P = I \times E$



$I = \frac{P}{E}$ $E = \frac{P}{I}$

Most appliances and similar equipment list the Wattage and the Voltage on the nameplate. Use the equation here to determine the Current (Amps).

It is obvious that just a couple of appliances plugged into a Relocateable Power Tap will exceed the maximum cord-and-plug connected load.

For example, a 1300W toaster, and an 1100W coffee maker is 19.8 Amps !

Applied Research Laboratories (ARL)

Recognition terminated 1/28/2008

Canadian Standards Association (CSA)

US NRTL C US NRTL/C

Used for products meeting only U.S. standards

Used for products meeting both U.S. and Canadian standards

Used for gas products

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Symbol permitted until May 1, 2010

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