



Wallingford Electric Division Newsletter

Serving our customers since 1899 | www.town.wallingfordct.us

Vol. 26, No. 1
Winter 2019

What Is A Power Surge?



Power surges occur when the flow of electricity is interrupted, then started again, or when something sends electricity flowing back into the system.

Surges can range from five or ten volts when you turn on your hair dryer to thousands of volts if lightning strikes a transformer.

Internal power surges

More than half of household power surges are internal. These happen dozens of times each day, usually when devices with motors start up or shut off, diverting electricity to and from other appliances.

Refrigerators and air conditioners are the biggest culprits, but smaller devices like hair dryers and power tools can also cause problems.

External power surges

An external power surge, stemming from outside your home, is most commonly caused by a tree limb touching a power line, lightning striking utility equipment or a small animal getting into a transformer.

Surges can also occur when the power comes back on after an outage, and can even come into your home through telephone and cable TV lines.

Why worry about power surges?

Your home is filled with items susceptible to power surges. Anything containing a microprocessor is especially vulnerable - the tiny digital components are so sensitive that even a 10-volt fluctuation can disrupt proper functioning.

Microprocessors are found in hundreds of consumer items, including TVs, cordless phones, computers, microwaves, and even seemingly "low-tech" large appliances like dishwashers, washing machines and refrigerators.

Large power surges, as with a lightning strike, can cause instantaneous damage, "frying" circuits and melting plastic and metal parts. Fortunately, these types of power surges are rare.

Low-level power surges won't melt parts or blow fuses, but they can cause "electronic rust," gradually degrading internal circuitry until it ultimately fails.

Small surges won't leave any outward evidence, so you may not even be aware they're happening - even though they may occur dozens or even hundreds of times each day.

See page 2 for tips on ways to prevent power surges.

Phantom energy can be scary

Phantom energy can be scary for the energy bill your parents pay, but no actual phantoms or ghosts are involved. All of the things in our home or car that are plugged in can be sucking energy, even when not in use - even when turned off! This is called **phantom energy**. Our devices keep using energy in this state because all of those electronics are standing by ready to jump back to life when you need them. In fact, your TVs standby (or phantom) power usage can make up to 10% of its total power usage.

Did you know there are 20 to 40 devices in the average home hanging out in the standby mode? Not only does that waste energy, it costs money.

What can you do? Unplug your cell phone and laptop charger when you're not using them. Unplug other devices with your parents' permission. Also, there are "smart" power strips that will help make shutting off unused devices easier.

Wallingford Electric Division

100 John Street, Wallingford, CT 06492
Hours: Mon. - Fri. 8:30AM to 5PM
(203) 294-2020

To report a streetlight problem
(203) 294-2273

Outage-related calls
(203) 265-5055

Energy Conservation Programs
(203) 294-2280

Public Utility Commission
(203) 284-4016

Commissioners

Robert Beaumont, Patrick Birney, Joel Rinebold

Director of Public Utilities

Richard Hendershot

Payment Locations

Tax Office Room 209, Wallingford Town Hall,
45 South Main Street

Drop Box

Wallingford Town Hall
Adjacent to Prince Street entrance

Protect Yourself Against Potential Electric Bill Payment Scams

It has come to the attention of the Wallingford Electric Division an electric bill payment scam may be underway in our service area. Some of our customers have received telephone calls claiming recent payments have not been honored by the bank and the electricity will be disconnected by the end of the business day. The caller indicates in order to prevent the termination of service, a new payment is required in the form of a retail money card or a prepaid credit card made directly to a third party.

If you should receive a call like this please contact our Customer Service Office at 203-294-2020 and report the incident.





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Preventing Power Surges

The first line of defense against power surges is prevention. While most external surges can't be controlled, you can eliminate some common causes of internal surges.

Unplug devices you aren't using

The easiest way to avoid power surge problems is to unplug devices that aren't being used. Take a look around your home, and you'll likely find dozens of idle items plugged in.

There's no need to leave toasters, power tools or other small appliances plugged in; if you rarely use the programming features on your microwave or VCR, unplug those as well.

Upgrade inadequate wiring

If you have an older home, inadequate wiring could be the cause. Electrical systems in homes built before the 1980s weren't designed to handle large-capacity refrigerators, entertainment systems and computer equipment.

Some visible signs of inadequate wiring are frequent blown fuses or tripped circuit breakers, or lights that flicker or dim when the refrigerator or another large appliance kicks on.

Don't ignore these symptoms - they're a signal that something is wrong, and the problem may become a fire hazard.

Fix overloaded circuits

If your home is newer, you may have a problem with an overloaded circuit. Look for two (or more) large appliances drawing power from the same circuit, especially in the kitchen.

Another trouble spot might be a circuit with many smaller devices, such as a family room filled with computer and entertainment equipment.

Ask your electrician to establish dedicated circuits for each large appliance, and to divide rooms with multiple devices into separate circuits.

More Ways to Save Money and Energy

	750	UI	Eversource	WED
Customer Service Charge	\$ 12.84	\$ 9.21	\$ 18.90	
Distribution	\$ 0.091435	\$ 0.054170	\$ 0.114400	
Revenue Adj. Mechanism		\$ 0.003990		
Transmission	\$ 0.031232	\$ 0.027170		
CTA	\$ -	\$ (0.000580)		
FMCC Delivery Charge	\$ 0.013694	\$ 0.010150		
Generation	\$ 0.112263	\$ 0.101430		
Combined Public Benefits Chg	\$ 0.009256	\$ 0.012590	\$ 0.002500	

Customer Service Charge	\$ 12.84	\$ 9.21	\$ 18.90
Distribution	\$ 68.58	\$ 40.63	\$ 85.80
Revenue Adj. Mechanism	\$ -	\$ 2.99	\$ -
Transmission	\$ 23.42	\$ 20.38	\$ -
CTA	\$ -	\$ (0.44)	\$ -
FMCC Delivery Charge	\$ 10.27	\$ 7.61	\$ -
Generation	\$ 84.20	\$ 76.07	\$ -
Combined Public Benefits Chg	\$ 6.94	\$ 9.44	\$ 1.88
Total Monthly Bill for 750 kWh Cust	\$ 206.25	\$ 165.89	\$ 106.58

Energy Conservation - Residential Rebate Programs & Resources Links



The following rebate applications are valid for residential energy efficiency measures completed January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021 and can be downloaded at www.town.wallingford.ct.us/Content/Energy_Consevation_Residential.asp

- Attic Insulation Rebate
- Electric Heating and Cooling System Rebate
- Heat Pump Water Heater Rebate



The Wallingford Symphony Orchestra Family Concert! Disney Magic! Mayor William Dickinson, Narrator

Sat., Feb. 23, 2019 | 2:00pm in PMAC

The Planets

Choate Rosemary Hall Chorus
Aly Kegal, Director

The Winner of the Mitchell Family
String Concerto Competition

Sun., April 7, 2019 | 2:00pm in PMAC

July Pop Free Concerts

June 29, 2019 | 7:00pm, Madison Town Green

June 30, 2019 | 7:00pm, Choate Chapel Lawn

WALLINGFORD SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

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