

# Power Strip Safety in Patient Care Areas

## Requirements:

Power strips in **patient care areas** (procedural rooms, exam rooms, inpatient rooms, or operating room suites) must be:

- **Permanently attached** to the equipment assembly (cart, table, pedestal).
- Medical grade **special purpose relocatable power taps (SPRPT)** labeled with **UL 1363A** or **UL 60601-1**.



- Labeled with a Facilities Management identification number and the power consumption limit (only at **VUMC & OHO**).

## Where to Get:

In **patient care areas**, facilities departments are responsible for all power strips not connected to computer workstations. VUMC IT is responsible for computer power strips.

Request SPRPTs through **your facilities department**:

- VUMC & OHO – contact [Facilities Management](#)
- Regional Hospitals – contact **Plant Operations**
- Offsite facilities – contact [Vanderbilt Operational Services](#)

**Outside of patient care areas**, get power strips through Procurement, VUMC IT, or your facilities department.

## NEVER

- Overload the power strip! Exceeding the total amps, watts, or volt-amps listed on the power strip's label. Never plug in more than four at a time.
- Connect (daisy chain) two or more power strips together.
- Plug in high-power equipment that requires a higher level of power than a power strip can provide.

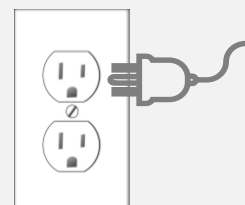
**DO NOT EXCEED**  
11.25 AMPS or  
1350 Watts / Volt-amps

## ALWAYS

**Plug high-powered equipment directly into the wall** – *not* a power strip.

Examples of high-powered equipment:

- Patient warming devices (i.e., Bair Huggers)
- Endoscopic carts/surgical video towers
- Anesthesia machines/carts
- Blood warmers
- Electrosurgical devices
- Perfusion equipment
- Surgical microscopes
- Surgical robots
- Toasters
- Microwaves
- Refrigerators



Refer to VUMC Policy [Electrical Equipment](#) for more information.