



Arlington
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT
More Than a Remarkable Education

Energy Management

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Does a surge protector protect my equipment even if my surge protector is turned off?

- As long as the surge protector is plugged into a properly grounded wall receptacle, all outlets are protected regardless of the position of the on/off switch.
- Although you may turn something off, like a computer, there is still a draw of power to run things like the internal clock, memory, etc. By simply flipping the switch to the power strip, the savings of a few devices can add up to a big savings!
- For more information please visit [Prime Wire Cable](#) and [Energy.gov](#)



myths

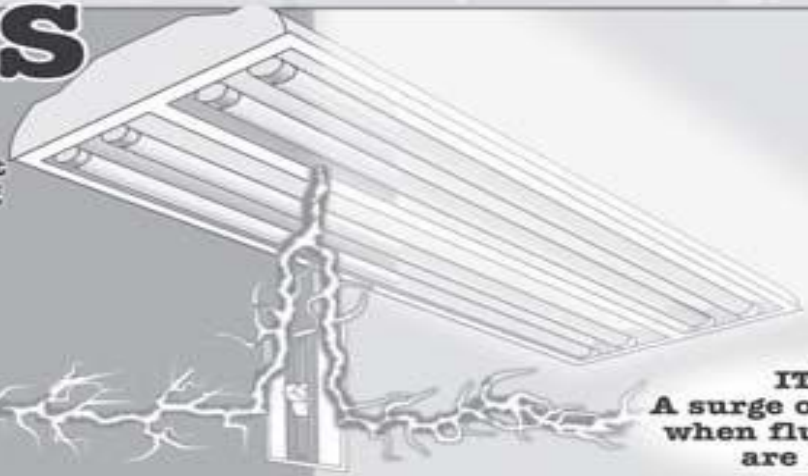
Myths often contain partial truths that make them plausible. Even though the right information is used – the wrong conclusion is reached:

MYTH 1
A surge of current occurs when fluorescent lights are turned on.

This surge uses more electricity than leaving the lights on.

MYTH 2
Turning fluorescent lights on and off wears them out.

Replacement and maintenance costs will eliminate any energy savings.



IT'S TRUE...
A surge of current occurs when fluorescent lights are switched on

HOWEVER...
Energy usage is insignificant. Inrush is only 5 times normal operating current and lasts only 1/120th of a second

IT'S TRUE...
Each time a fluorescent lamp is started, some of the emissive coating on the cathode is eroded and the life of the lamp is shortened

HOWEVER...
Energy use far outweighs the cost of maintenance and materials.



facts

Facts are often shrouded in detail and subtle ideas. Sometimes it takes more work to get the facts:

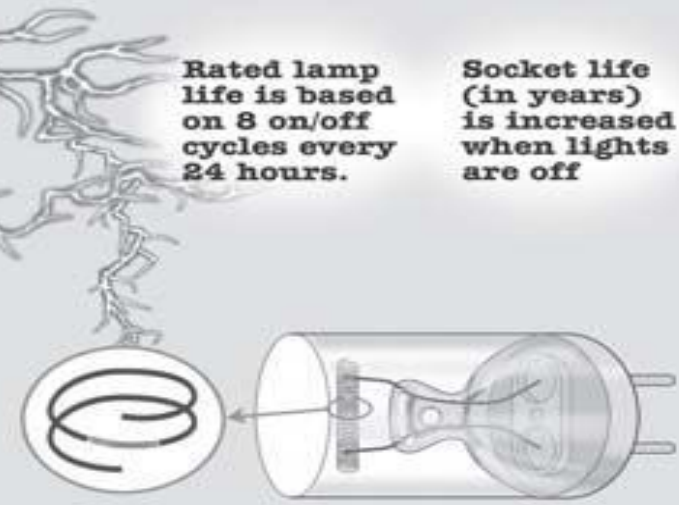
Energy Managers agree: The best course of action is to turn out the lights when you leave



If every teacher in Texas turned out the lights at lunch and after school... it would save 175 Million kWh and \$14 Million every year. It would be the equivalent of taking 23,465 cars off the road.

Rated lamp life is based on 8 on/off cycles every 24 hours.

Socket life (in years) is increased when lights are off



Do I need to unplug everything when not in use?

- Short answer: If it's not too much trouble
- Many devices still use electricity when they are off, but plugged in. Known as standby power, phantom load, etc.
- For a chart of what each device uses [click here](#).
- These loads are typically very small, but every little bit helps. If it presents too much of a challenge (i.e. a lab full of computers), skip it and just be sure to turn things off.
- Common items that make sense to unplug: audio-visual equipment, chargers, pencil sharpeners, microwaves, etc.
- If it's not frequently used, unplug it.
- Consider using a power strip to turn all items off.

Are personal appliances allowed?

- Short answer: Yes
- Current, the district has not implemented a policy regarding the use of personal appliances.
- The use of personal appliances cost the AISD approximately \$250,000 each year.
- We ask that you limit the use of these appliances, as they represent considerable costs to the district in energy, pest control, fire/safety, and electrical load.
- Consider sharing appliances.

Can I use my fan, lamp, etc.?

- Short answer: Yes
- Personal appliances are currently not restricted by policy
- We request the help of our employees in limiting these
- Lamps should use compact fluorescent or LED bulbs and should only be used when standard fixtures are off (task lighting)
- Fans are welcome when HVAC is not in use to make the building more comfortable.
- Try to use small appliances when needed
- Please make sure to turn off all appliances before leaving your room



Why are lights left on?

- Short answer: We try to avoid this
- Turn them off if you can
- In several of our older facilities, the lighting systems require keys to turn them on and off
- In evening hours, select lighting fixtures remain on for security purposes
- New construction and renovation requires lighting sensors
- As we upgrade facilities, we will attempt to change these as funded
- Please let us know if you have an area of concern and we will check it for you



Why can't I control the thermostat in my room like I do at home?



- Short answer: Our systems are different
- Many of our HVAC systems are large central plants with chillers and boilers
- This equipment takes a longer amount of time to respond to occupant demand
- These systems require complex controls that are operated and monitored by plant services technicians
- By centrally scheduling HVAC equipment, we can run more efficiently by not running heating and cooling simultaneously and by scheduling appropriately
- Most districts save 10-15% of their utility budget by implementing centralized controls. This equates to \$1.5-\$2 million per year for AISD.

If we have these controls, why is it still not comfortable?

- Short answer: It could be several reasons. Contact your building operator.
- AISD, like most school districts, has millions of dollars of deferred maintenance issues that funding isn't available to address
- Some of these problems are due to equipment being operated beyond it's useful life
- Some of these problems could be due to equipment failure
- At times, construction or renovation projects or power outages may interrupt normal operation of equipment
- If you are in a building after-hours, it's possible that no HVAC request was submitted
- For help in determining how to address your comfort concern, contact your campus building scheduler first. If the equipment is scheduled to operate and it is not comfortable, please have them submit a work order.
- It is our desire to provide a comfortable learning environment!



We Encourage Questions!

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