

FULBRIGHT HOME INSPECTIONS

NEWSLETTER

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Commercial/Residential Inspections

LIGHTNING could “strike” your home a lot more than twice! (One lightning strike could destroy a lot of items.) Add up the cost of your electrical items that can be fried by a lightning strike; ceiling fans (didn't include those in the list did you), heating and air conditioning systems, high definition and plasma televisions, home theater systems, surround sound, wired home alarms, personal computers, game consoles, phones --- those are some of the items you can lose. It is more critical to understand that lightning, according to the National Fire Protection Association, is responsible for over 6,000 residential fires per year.

Individual components can be protected by UL approved surge suppressor. It should read SVR 330V or Suppressor Voltage Rating of 330 volts and state that it meets UL Standard 1449. These will cost \$15 to \$30. Do NOT assume that your power strip from Wal-Mart will protect your equipment unless it is identified properly as a surge suppressor. Perhaps the better method of protecting your individual items is to pay an electrician \$250 to \$500 to install a whole-home surge arrester near the main circuit breaker panel. So far, we are still protecting items. If you want thorough lightning protection for your items and your house, then contact an electrician for a quote. A lightning protection system usually cost around \$1.25 per sq. ft. If you have a newer home, it may already be installed. Ask your builder. Either way, if it has been five years or more since you have had an electrician out, it is good maintenance and safety to call for a checkup. Ask about your lightning protection when the electrician is there.

Fulbright Home Inspections performs complete residential and commercial building inspections.

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