

Dirty Grids that are Limiting the Lifespan of Appliances

By Jon Sader

Nobody likes having to replace expensive yet necessary appliances such as your refrigerator, oven, washer, dryer, etc. Taking care and protecting these major investments should be of the utmost concern to you. There is something you can do to further the lifespan of these appliances by protecting it from what is called a “dirty grid”.

Energy received from the grid is seldom consistent and many areas throughout the country may exist in a “dirty grid”. A “dirty grid” is a moniker for an energy grid that consistently delivers small yet damaging energy spikes and dips. A “dirty grid” may exist in areas with oversized or outdated power lines and transformers. The quality of energy and the consistency of how you receive electricity will vary between energy companies and their service areas. The problem is that you may never know if you live in these high-risk areas. You will also never know when these small energy spikes occur because the electricity does not go out – it just damages the appliances themselves. Your major appliances may be at risk from constant voltage spikes and dips which will eventually shorten their lifespan. Reinvesting in major appliances on a regular basis can be quite a burden on your household budget.

However, there is a way to prevent the negative effects of living with a “dirty grid”. A power conditioner can be used to protect your most valuable appliances from constant voltage spikes and dips. A power conditioner has a very similar look and use as a surge protector which protects against an extreme spike in electricity like during a lightning strike. The difference is that a power conditioner constantly adjusts the electricity coming in so that it is optimal for your appliances. There are two types of these devices – one connects directly into the breakers and the other can connect directly to standard AC outlets. Note that we suggest you hire an electrician to utilize the power conditioner that connects to your breakers. You can protect any number of appliances with a power conditioner including:

- Refrigerators
- Clothes Washers
- Dryers*
- Ovens
- Computers
- Televisions
- Air Conditioner*
- Furnace*

○ *indicates that it is only available with power conditioner that connects to breakers



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These devices tend to start at \$200 and go up from there. There are also power conditioners that have battery backups that will keep your internet, computer, etc. powered up so that you can save all of your work even if there is a sudden power outage. By taking advantage of power conditioners you can limit having to replace your ever-valuable appliances.

