



internet help site

HEALTH ADVICE FOR YOUR COMPUTER

How to kill your computer!

1. Leave your computer plugged in during a storm.

Myth No: 1... I've got a surge protector.

Sorry, folks! Surge protectors are there to protect your equipment from **electrical surges** **not** lightning.

If lightning strikes a power line or a phone line and finds it's way into your home, all your electrical equipment **will be fried!**

If you've ever seen an electrical welder in action, you'll know what I mean!

The only way to protect your equipment during a storm is to **unplug it.**

Remember Unplug: Everything connected to a phone line.
Computers and peripherals
Fax machines
TVs, DVDs, videos, stereos
Dryers, washing machines,
Maybe even dishwashers and fridges

2. Sitting your computer on the floor.

The floor is not a great place for your box of tricks. You can kick it, bump it, and accidentally unplug things. If it's on carpet, the surface is also uneven.

The biggest problem is **dust.**

Dust is the number one killer of electrical equipment. It causes everything to overheat and then die. This is further amplified by the fact that dust is heavier than air and settles on the floor. This dust is then sucked into your machine by its cooling fan and chokes everything. Very soon it'll be dead!

3. Using your equipment as a bookshelf.

Placing things on your computer or monitor blocks the ventilation holes and causes it to overheat and then death.

If you're really clever, your monitor has caught fire, imploded or exploded and slowly your house burns down while you're sleeping!

4. Drinking on the job.

Drinking anything and having them lying around your computer is a no no. Liquids and electronics don't mix, obviously. If you've managed to spill your coffee over your keyboard, that's not too bad. They're cheap. But if you've got drink into your computer gizmo or all over your laptop, good luck! Chances are, you've fried all of its circuits.

5. I can fix it!

Everybody thinks they can fix it. Worse still, your best mate is the expert on everything especially computers. A little bit of knowledge **is** dangerous!

This is myth No: 2 ...Probably the biggest killer of computers!

6. Static electricity.

This relates directly to number 5. We all have static electricity in us. Just have a look in the dark next time you undress your synthetic clothes. You'll see some amazing sparks. ICs, memory chips and printed circuits are extremely sensitive things. Just one of those little sparks can destroy them.

7. Rough handling.

Mishandling your computer can be deadly **especially when it's turned on**. Any movement, jolt or bang on the side of the box could do damage. It can loosen connection or even damage the hard drive.

If you drop it, well, kiss it goodbye!

The same applies to your peripherals. Printers fax machines, scanners are all sensitive pieces of equipment too. Take care with them as well.

8. Heat.

This is not so much of a problem for desktop PCs, only if you ignore the commonsense rules above. Heat is the number one enemy of electronics.

Laptops can be very sensitive and how they survive in cars, I'll never know. Car interiors can reach 70°C -80°C in summer time. Cooking in a black case and rolling around in a boot is not very beneficial to its health. The cheaper the laptop, the weaker the chassis. They contain a huge amount of plastic these days. Cases can buckle, and screens can get damaged easily, especially when cooked.

Don't expect it to operate efficiently, or work at all. When you're ready to use it, take it out from its case, open it up and let it cool down (preferably in a shady spot). After a while turn it on and let the fan cool its internals.

If using it in an office environment, consider a special laptop stand with a built in heat sink or even a fan.

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