

## Too much technology? Don't let gadgets, cords overwhelm you

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For the Argus Leader

Did you get a new TV for Christmas?

By this time, you've probably discovered that new technology has taken on its own set of special needs. For that new TV, there are more unsightly cords, special cabling and wall-mounting issues you probably never anticipated.

Dustin Samuelson, an audio video technician for Sorlien Technologies, is well aware of the frustrations of many consumers.

"The new technology requires so much wiring and lots of cords," he says. "The biggest problem is people don't want to see them."

Major issues come with wall-mounted TVs.

"Before you set everything up,

there has got to be some serious planning about how you will conceal the cords and cables and what type of mount you want for your TV," Samuelson says.

If you want it all to look good in the end, Samuelson recommends thinking about 90-degree cable adapters, recessed outlets and where components will be placed in relation to the TV. Also determining the type of mount is important. Will it be flat, tilted or full motion?

Not to be overlooked is a good surge protector.

"Spending extra on a surge protector that will warranty your equipment is important," Samuelson says. "TVs and components are expensive, so you better set everything up properly to protect your investment."

## Get your house in tip-top tech shape with tips

► A smart (color-coded) power strip. Even when a TV or computer is turned off, it still draws power. Though small, this "vampire power" costs money. By using a smart power strip, you can plug in the main device (like a TV or computer) into a control outlet and peripheral devices like printers or external speakers into secondary outlets. The peripheral devices are turned off when the computer is off, stopping idle current draw. The device gets its name

because the outlets perform different functions. The outlet is all color-coded to make it easy to plug everything in. Visit [www.greenandmore.com](http://www.greenandmore.com).

► Cable wire covers. You can buy white ones and paint them to match your wall so you don't have any exposed, unsightly black wires. Find out more at [www.cableorganizer.com](http://www.cableorganizer.com).

► Flatwire technology. This wire is flat, foil thin, flexible and as wide as a piece of masking tape and works for audio, video, data

and lighting. You can tape it onto the wall and paint over it. Because it is installed on the surface of the wall, there are no drywall worries, plaster repairs or mess. The connectors also work with existing wiring. A spray adhesive attaches it to the wall. Find it at [www.flatwirestore.com](http://www.flatwirestore.com).

► Need some tech troubleshooting? Check out YouTube for instructional videos. If you are having trouble and the instruction manual doesn't help, go to [www.LifeHacker.com](http://www.LifeHacker.com).

