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Destruction for Good

By Thomas Yoon

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Destruction! Blow Up! Eliminate! These are not pleasant words!

Unfortunately, when it comes to safety we have no other choices. In the electrical industry, fuses are destroyed in order to protect lives or property.

Whenever there is a big fault in the power lines, possibly caused by short-circuiting, fuses are very helpful to stop the flow of current.

Unlike circuit breakers, fuses have no mechanical moving parts that can fail to operate. A fuse is just an electrical link in the circuit that can melt very quickly whenever a certain temperature is reached.

Fuses have 4 things to do in a circuit:

1. They must sense faults
2. They must open quickly when a short-circuit occurs
3. They must also sense the normal overloaded conditions, but must open if the overload becomes excessive or prolonged.
4. They must not change or alter the characteristic of the current during normal operation.

Early types of fuses use lead wires, selected based on their diameters, connected to terminals. These types have some disadvantages. Whenever a fuse blows, the molten metal spatters over the equipment and could cause injury to people or cause fires, especially when the arc was not confined.

Later, cartridge fuses replaced the old lead wire fuses. These consist of non-conducting cylinders which contain soft metal fuse strips. The strips are connected to the ends of the cylinders by metal caps or ferrules. The entire cartridge fuse is mounted onto a matching fuse block.

Even these cartridge fuses have 2 types – those with renewable fuse links and those one-time non-renewable types. The only advantage of the renewable type – they are more economical because the cartridge can be reused. However, more precautions are needed with regards to the cleanliness of the contacts, the securing of the cap bolts, and

the choice of the current rating of the link.

Whenever a fuse blows, it means there is already a big fault in the circuit. Electricians must be especially careful during this time and take the necessary precautions. The fuses blow up for safety. Don't cause another blow up!

Until next time...

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Many years of working experience in Marine, Facilities, Construction has given the author material for writing e-books and articles related to engineering, and management.

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Paper Shredders And Your Safe Identity

By John Francis Amberden

We've all seen those ads. You know, the ones where some hapless person is sitting there looking forlorn and then suddenly becomes animated while channeling the voice of their identity thief. I'll bet the first time you saw an ad like that you cracked a smile and thought to yourself, `that could never

Destruction for Good

happen to me'. I'll also wager that's the exact thing all those victims of identity theft thought too ... before it happened to them. That's why you need to invest in something like a paper shredder to protect your identity.

No? You don't need something to help with document destruction? Well, let's take a look in that trash bag, shall we? There's a phone bill with your number and address; a bank statement with your account number; a card from Aunt Rose with your birthday; and an official letter with your social security number. What do you think could happen if someone got their grubby little hands on all that personal information? Still think you don't need a paper shredder?

Before you go running out to buy one though, you need to take a few things into consideration. All paper shredders are not created equally and they have varying levels of effectiveness when it comes to document destruction. You need to find a good balance between performance and price. Here's a brief overview of the two main types of paper shredders:

As the name suggests, strip-cut paper shredders cut paper into neat, long strips. The thickness of the strips can vary from as little as 1/8 of an inch to as much as 1/2 an inch. Logically, it is better to strip the paper as thinly as possible for maximum security. These paper shredders are typically low maintenance and can handle a large amount of paper. Although difficult, it is possible for someone to piece those strips together enough to get some of your critical information.

Cross-cut paper shredders are quite good at document destruction since they slice paper both horizontally and vertically. It is very difficult to put the confetti-sized pieces back together and they compress better than long strips so there is less emptying involved. However, these paper shredders generally require more care, more maintenance and can be more expensive.

Whichever one you choose, remember that a very patient person can put together practically any shredded document. However, document destruction by means of paper shredders will greatly decrease the likelihood of anyone trying to steal your identity. I mean, would you prefer to rifle through someone's trash and get intact documents or bags of seemingly worthless paper that would take forever to put together? Exactly. And that's just what thieves are going to think too, especially when there are easier targets available. Invest in a paper shredder today. You won't regret it.

John Francis Amberden is a regular article contributor on many topics. If you have found this article helpful, visit his resource sites,

and

. For information on other topics of interest, visit

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