

electricity abroad



Volts:

Africa operates on 220 volts. American appliances will burn out immediately unless they can be switched from 110v to 220V. Many small appliances such as hairdryers and electric shavers are now sold with a switch to use either 110v or 220v. DO NOT bring 110v appliances unless you bring a converter.

Voltage converters:

These cut in half the number of volts flowing into your appliance. Be sure to buy the right type as they are designed to operate with specific appliances.

Adapters:

Available in numerous shapes and sizes. adapters "adapt" a plug to the type of socket used in various countries. Adapters can be purchased at Target or Radio Shack, but you will save money and frustration if you buy what you need once you arrive in Africa. Keep in mind that outlets in each country are different.

Frequency:

In Africa, the hertz (cycles per second) is 50. The US uses 60 hertz, so a motor may not function properly.

Surge Protector:

Electrical supplies in Kampala are erratic, oftentimes surging too high or too low. Especially for computers, it is important to have a surge protector. These are readily available in Kampala.

Bring only the essentials . . .