



240 volt outlet splitter

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I have a single 50 amp 240 volt outlet. However, I've been using both my dryer and a welder on this same outlet, both have 3-prong (10-50P) plugs. It can be difficult to plug and unplug cords from this outlet. Are there any ways to share this outlet with both devices with the assumption that I won't be using both simultaneously? Splitter box (with toggle switch)? Splitter cable?

Note this is for standard 30A dryer. If you need 50A, you will need different receptacles and cord. Probably a range cord. But I assume that since you are currently plugging your welder into your dryer receptacle, 30A will be sufficient.

wire, wire nuts, box cover, cord clamp etc. If your box can be mounted close enough to the existing outlet, you can cut the excess off your dryer or range cord and use that excess wire to connect the two new outlets. This is just a very minor optimization and you might figure it out as you assembled the box but this way, you'll know before you go shopping.

Since you're dealing with a 50 ampere circuit, you'll probably have to look at transfer, or double throw safety switches. You could look for a 3 pole version and also switch the neutral, but I don't think that's a requirement. These devices will likely be quite expensive.

Basically you'll install two NEMA 10-50R receptacles, one for the dryer and one for the welder (Or a NEMA 10-50R for the welder, and a NEMA 10-30R for the dryer). Then you'll wire up the transfer/safety switch "backwards" so that it switches the load, rather than switching the line. Something like this...

Notice when the switch is in the "UP" position, the welder will have power. When the switch is in the "DOWN" position, the dryer will have power. And when the switch is in the middle, power is disconnected from both.

The problem with the solution is: The circuit breaker serves to protect the wiring between the switchboard and the appliance. A 50A circuit breaker does not protect the 30A dryer cable when a short circuit is in the dryer or dryer cable, so the dryer cable or the dryer could burn up if the short circuit draws just 45A. The code requires you to insert a 30A or smaller circuit breaker or fuse between the 50A circuit and the 30A receptacle.



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