

HOT OFF THE

WIRES

NEWS YOU CAN USE AROUND YOUR HOME

FALL 2012

Your Home's Electrical System Could Be Worn Out Like Bald Tires on Your Car

If You Have an Older Home and Your Service Panel Hasn't Been Replaced, It's a Safety Upgrade That You Should Consider Soon!

Everybody knows that the tires on their car wear out over time. The more miles, the more wear-and-tear on the tread. It's easy to see when they need to be replaced since they wear out from the outside in. Your home's electrical service, however, wears from the inside out. You will never know when a potentially dangerous failure might occur. Rarely will you see or notice anything wrong with your system until it happens.

Your home's electrical panel, the "brain" of your home's system, can have worn circuit breakers, deteriorated busbars, heavy corrosion, and even circuits that are overloaded. It also can have loose, burning connections that are sparking and sizzling at heavy load times and you would never know it. Only a qualified electrician can determine if you might have a safety issue before it becomes a potential problem.

The complexity of your electrical system—and its likelihood of wearing down with time—is why electrical-system failures are one of the primary causes of house fires. Residential electrical-system failures account for more than 90,000 household fires a year! Many of these failures could have been prevented if an inspection was conducted and a new electrical-service panel was installed.

It's easy to see why electrical panels wear down with time. Consider this: if you have a home that was constructed more than 30 years ago, the appliances sitting on your kitchen counter today use more electricity than homes did back then. The constant pulling on your electrical-service panel takes a toll on it. For your knowledge, here are the prime reasons why panels need to be replaced:

The panel doesn't have enough capacity!

As mentioned above, homes require much more use of electricity. Older panels simply can't safely

provide the necessary amount of power. If you've noticed flickering lights, lights dimming and strengthening with time, outlets that work inconsistently, or breakers or fuses constantly tripping, you should contact Iddings Electric soon for a safety evaluation!

The panel is too old!

Age and electrical devices do not get along very well. You can look at an old panel, and it seemingly looks fine. You can even open the panel up, and at a glance, it appears to have aged beautifully. But behind that calm façade, when a trained electrician gets into it, worn circuit breakers, corrosion, and burnt connections may exist.

The panel is not safe!

Like many products, it's possible that electrical panels were not properly installed. Poor workmanship can hide for a time, but eventually problems can begin. Also, there are several electrical panels that are considered potentially dangerous and should be inspected immediately, if not replaced. If you see a Federal Pacific® or Zinsco® brand panel, call Iddings Electric immediately.

If you're uncertain what type of electrical-service panel you have in your home, or you suspect that it's old and would like the peace of mind that it's working properly and your home is safe, give us a call at Iddings Electric, 717-355-9675. Right now, we're offering complimentary safety inspections for anyone who mentions this newsletter!

Also, if you know that your home's service panel needs to be replaced, there's no better time than now to have it performed. Right now, Iddings Electric is offering \$100 OFF a panel change-out! Give me a call at 717-355-9675 for more information on our service panels, which come with extraordinary guarantees and warranties!

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Do You Know Who You're Inviting into Your Home?

Make Sure You're Working with a Licensed, Legitimate Contractor!

It's a shame, but it happens all of the time. In fact, I just read an article in a trade magazine. There are people passing themselves off as licensed electrical contractors. They knock on people's doors or leave flyers. Some unsuspecting homeowner calls these people. They come to the home, and they offer a deal that seems too good to be true on some electrical work. Well, it usually is too good to be true.

Plenty of people can go to technical school. They can get familiar with the tools and maybe learn how to do a few things with a wrench. But what happens in five or six months when that cheap work begins to have major trouble? Do you still have the individual's phone number who did the work? Here's a better question: Does that phone number still work?

Unfortunately, in the trades, we don't just hear about these horror stories; we see them too often. By hiring these fly-by-nighters, it may lead to a bad and expensive outcome for the poor homeowner. And with people looking for ways to make a few extra dollars in these economic times, the odds

of running into one of these people increases! So, please, be cautious!

There are ways you can protect yourself. First of all, before allowing anyone into your home, do some quick research. Visit the Better Business Bureau® website and see if you can find the company. Search online and see if they have a Web presence. Lastly, insist that the contractor supplies you with their licensing and references of past clients—I recommend asking for addresses and phone numbers. Contact these people on your own. Get the real scoop!

You can avoid all of that trouble and stick with a company that you know has your best interest at heart, Iddings Electric. You know that we are completely licensed and have an outstanding BBB record. In addition, we insist that all of our electricians are drug tested, background checked, and highly trained. Furthermore, we offer some outstanding guarantees and warranties—and we don't disappear if you have trouble and need us to come back. We're here to stay. You can call us at 717-355-9675 any time you have an electrical need and know you are in good hands!

Make Fire Prevention a Priority During Fire Prevention Month!

Fall is full of so many fun events and holidays, like Halloween and Thanksgiving. Yet, during fall there is an important, yet much less celebrated observance. The month of October is also known as Fire Prevention Month.

According to the Home Safety Council, more than 3,000 people die from fires each year. Eighty percent of those occur while in the home; the majority of those happen when people are sleeping. And according to the National Fire Protection agency, 62 percent of home-related fire deaths resulted because the home didn't have smoke alarms, or the alarms were not functional. So, if your smoke alarms are more than 10 years old, you should consider replacing them.

Rather than worry about what happens once a fire starts in your home, it makes sense to do everything possible to prevent one from starting. Below are some helpful tips that you should consider. They will reduce the likelihood of a fire occurring while increasing the safety of your family.

- Never plug multiple items into the same electrical outlet or circuit. If an electrical appliance smokes or smells unusual, unplug it immediately and have it serviced.
- Make sure light bulbs are the recommended wattage for all of your light fixtures.
- Keep baking soda or salt near your stove to extinguish grease fires. Don't use water, which will spread the flame.
- Keep your stove's exhaust fan and range hood free of grease. Keep the cooking area free of combustibles.
- Never leave cooking unattended. Turn pan handles inward so they don't hang over the edge of the stove.
- Keep matches and lighters out of children's reach. Teach children these are dangerous items to be used by adults only.
- Never use an extension cord on a permanent basis and avoid running them under rugs.
- Never install a double-cylinder deadbolt lock on your exit doors. They require a key to unlock from the inside. When you need to exit in a hurry, this lock can be deadly.
- Don't place hay, straw, or other combustible materials beneath your home.
- Don't smoke in bed or when you're drowsy. Fires created by cigarettes cause more deaths than any other kind of fire. Run butts and ashes under water before disposing. Or better yet, don't allow smoking in your home.
- Never leave home with the clothes dryer running. Clean dryer vents frequently. Clean lint screens after each load to keep the airway clear.
- Never block doors or windows with furniture or other objects.
- Store flammable liquids like gasoline, kerosene, paint thinner, etc., in approved containers outside your home, but not under your home.
- Make regular safety checks of your home's major systems or hire a professional to inspect them. Check for cleanliness, proper functioning and loose connections for your:
 - o Heating and cooling system
 - o Electrical
 - o Fuel lines
 - o Appliances
 - o Water heater
 - o Plumbing

If you haven't had your electrical panel inspected in some time, give us a call at 717-355-9675! If you mention that you read this article, you will get a big discount on your electrical panel tune-up! So, call us today. It's a key step to avoiding a potential fire from occurring.



Tasty Fall Recipe: Steakhouse Ribs

Ingredients

- 4 pounds pork baby-back ribs
- 3 tablespoons Dijon mustard, divided
- 1/3 cup firmly packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon paprika
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 teaspoon onion powder
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/2 cup steak marinade

Directions (prep time: 20 minutes)

1. Preheat an outdoor grill for medium heat, and lightly oil the grates. Tear off two sheets of aluminum foil about 30 inches long, and place onto a work surface.
2. Divide the pork ribs in half, and place half the ribs in a single layer on each sheet of aluminum. Spread the mustard onto both sides of the ribs. Place the brown sugar, paprika, garlic powder, onion powder, black pepper, and cumin in a bowl, and mix until thoroughly combined. Generously rub the spice mixture onto both sides of the ribs.
3. Fold the excess aluminum sheet to make a double-thick top layer; pinch and fold the top and sides together to completely enfold the ribs in foil, leaving room for heat to circulate.
4. Place the two packets of ribs onto the preheated grill, close the lid, and grill until the meat is tender and thoroughly cooked through, about 45 minutes. An instant-read meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of a rib should read at least 160 degrees F (70 degrees C). Remove ribs from foil, and discard foil.
5. Return the ribs to the grill, brushing each side with steak marinade. Grill until the ribs show charring and good grill marks and the steak marinade has cooked onto the outside of the ribs, about 15 more minutes. Turn and baste occasionally with marinade.

FALL WORD SEARCH

Be the first to complete the word search, and you will receive a \$50 gift certificate to Yoder's Restaurant. Everyone who submits the puzzle gets \$25 OFF any future services from Iddings Electric!

Mail completed puzzle to:

325 C. West Main St., New Holland, PA 17557

Or scan and email completed puzzle to:

Connie@iddingselectric.com

SCARECROW

NOVEMBER

HARVEST

SEPTEMBER

TREES

APPLES

LEAVES

RED

OCTOBER

BACK TO SCHOOL

AUTUMN

ACORN

BROWN

ORANGE

RAKE

FALL

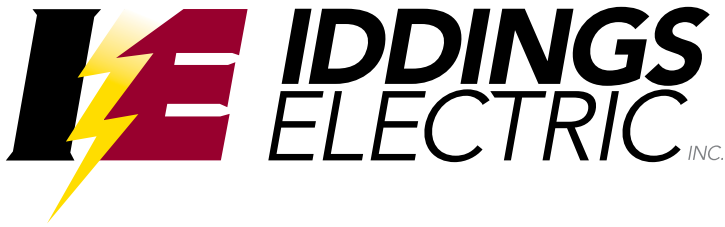
SQUIRREL

PUMPKINS

YELLOW

CORN

W T Z B A C K T O S C H O O L H D
 B X Y W A S Y J E O G W S Z D I N
 M N Q J E D R I U O C T O B E R R
 R X O V M D P R X A S R B P K B O
 S B A V D B R O W N Y A Z K R U C
 M E H H E O Q O O I A K V Q U X A
 L J P G L M E F R V D E I J M S C
 Y E L L O W B S T A W M D O L W L
 S X C X T R E E S O N U A L J L R
 E N D O R Z Y E R I X G E V A T E
 P M Y C R N G C Y O B R E F S I D
 T U E U Z N E Y F Y R O A E T S G
 E T F X C R U G A I C B V B Z E G
 M U M E A S G G U W V R K J Z L M
 B A T C Y W E Q X X A Q B W R P U
 E I S E K U S A F H D H V D M P F
 R L H K M W P U M P K I N S X A J



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City, ST 12345

Surging Forward



*From the Desk
of Shawn Iddings*

Iddings Electric Inc.

Hello there, friend! There's so much fun to be had during the fall season! One of the things I enjoy the most is the brilliant display of fall colors!!! And some of the things kids love the most are halloween and candy!! If you have a little one who's searching for a good joke to tell this Halloween, here are some suggestions. (Of course, I won't mind if you use them! Happy Halloween!)

Q. What do goblins and ghosts drink when they're hot and thirsty on Halloween?

A. Ghoul-aid!!!

Q. What is a mummy's favorite type of music?

A. Wrap!!!!

Q. What's a monster's favorite bean?

A. A human bean.

Q. What do you call a witch who lives at the beach?

A. A sand-witch.

Q. Where does a ghost go on Saturday night?

A. Anywhere he can boo-gie.

Those jokes certainly don't scare, but here's something that can: unexpected electrical problems! That's why at Iddings Electric, we're offering complimentary electrical inspections to anyone who mentions this newsletter! One of my highly trained technicians will evaluate your home and notify you of any problems, which could soon surface causing the need for emergency service. You're under no obligation to have a thing repaired, but at least you'll know the status of your electrical system. Should you wish to have a repair done, you'll receive \$25 OFF! Call me at 717-355-9675 to schedule your appointment!

Happy Halloween!

Shawn Iddings

Iddings Electric, Owner
717-355-9675

P.S. Even if you're not interested in an inspection, be one of the first five homeowners to call me, and I'll give you \$15 worth of complimentary candy! No strings attached! Give it to your kids or neighbors! Or put it at the office and see how many new friends you make! It's up to you! We see it as another opportunity to say hello again!