

ElectricalDetectives.com

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Electrical Detectives

Is Your Home Wired for High Tech?

A century ago, most homes and apartments had only cold-water plumbing. As water heaters grew in popularity, the plumbing trade had to adjust and install both hot-and-cold water lines so that people could enjoy the benefits of hot water flowing out of a tap for bathing, washing, and cooking. Similarly, while most American homes had a means of space heating for warmth, it wasn't until the 1950s that many added central air conditioning.

The electrical industry is at a similar stage right now. Virtually all existing homes in the United States and other developed countries are wired to provide electricity for heating, cooling, lighting, and basic household appliances, but our modern world not offers much more. Many homes nowadays include - or would like to include - so-called "smart hoe" features with advanced communications, automation, entertainment, and security systems. This requires new and improved wiring to accommodate all the wonders of our modern world.

"Structured Wiring" is a term that has caught on to describe a whole-house wiring system able to accommodate a network of audio, video, internet, telephone, high-definition television, home automation and security signals. It begins with a structured networking panel (SNP) connected to cables from outside telephone, cable or internet providers and which distributes the signals directly to each room in your home.

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The SNP distributes internal signals as well, such as from security cameras or computer networks. That's how you can have monitors throughout your home, share a printer with several computers or play a DVD in one room and watch it on TV in another. For the system to work well it requires high-performance cables, multi-port wall plates and various connectors. A professionally installed structured wiring system will provide top-notch speed and signal quality for all audio, video and internet connections.

Another benefit is that structured wiring provides for easy troubleshooting. Because the cables all run directly from the SNP to the outlet, it's easy to isolate problems in a specific wire without need of specialized equipment. Also, running all cables from the SNP directly to the termination points eliminates the need for cable splices, which are renowned for leading to poor signal quality.

Every year brings new advances in technology, so a well-conceived structured wiring system will anticipate future developments and provide for new connections. Various accessories are available to cover up unused openings and extra ports available for future applications. Special covers also can be employed to organize your cables and wires on your desktop.

Structured wiring is easiest to install in new homes under construction, but it's not overly complicated to retrofit. A structured wiring system can be melded fairly seamlessly with your home's existing electrical wiring, although the time and expense will vary with individual homes. Give us a call to ask about wiring your home so you can enjoy so many of the smart home features available today, and which are sure to be even more dazzling in the near future.



Fall Foliage Destinations

Fall is the perfect time of year to experience the beauty of nature. This list highlights top destinations across the country where this season paints the landscape with beautiful autumnal hues.

- 1) **Aspen, Colorado.** Best time to go: Mid-September to first week of October.
- 2) **The Catskills, New York.** Best time to go: **Last two weeks of September through mid-late October.**
- 3) **The Berkshires, Massachusetts.** Best time to go: **Late September to mid-October.**
- 4) **Columbia River Gorge, Oregon.** Best time to go: **Mid-September to mid-October.**
- 5) **Green Mountain Byway, Vermont.** Best time to go: **Second week of September to first week in October.**
- 6) **Enchanted Circle Scenic Byway, New Mexico.** Best time to go: **Late September to early October.**
- 7) **Great Smoky Mountains, North Carolina & Tennessee.** Best time to go: **Early October through early November.**
- 8) **Upper Peninsula, Michigan.** Best time to go: **mid-September to mid-October.**
- 9) **Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.** Best time to go: **Last 2 weeks of October.**
- 10) **Glacier National Park, Montana.** Best time to go: **mid-October to early-late September.**

Credit: fodors.com

Time Does Not Equal Money

The vast majority of our customers appreciate that we charge by the job rather than the time it takes to complete it. Before our technician breaks out the tools, customers know exactly how much the job will cost and have the option of agreeing to or declining the work. On occasion, someone complains when a technician finishes very quickly. "But how can you charge that much when the repair took only 15 minutes!"

Two things to keep in mind: First, every price must account for travel time to and from the job as well as time spent doing the work, plus overhead; second, you pay not only for the labor involved, but for the knowledge of that technician.

A given repair might only require replacing a simple little part.

But the value of our skilled technician comes from knowing which part to replace.

But the value of our skilled technician comes from knowing which part to replace.

It's analogous to a doctor's visit. Most of us at some point have paid a hefty doctor's fee merely to be prescribed some bed rest and a couple of aspirin. But when we made the appointment, we didn't know the problem was only a minor ailment. What we really paid for was the doctor's ability to tell us what was wrong. And for the confidence we had in that doctor to be able to identify a serious medical condition of that's what it was.

Likewise, our technicians are professionals whose most valuable skill is correctly diagnosing a problem before they go to work.

\$25 off

Any Electrical Service

Single use. Expires **11/30/15**. Cannot be combined with other offers. Please mention coupon at time of scheduling.

10% off

Electrical Panel Upgrade

Single use. Minimum of \$150. Expires **11/30/15**. Cannot be combined with other offers. Please mention coupon at time of scheduling.

\$90 off

Interlok Kit Installation

With qualifying service at additional cost. Expires **11/30/15**. Cannot be combined with other offers. Please mention coupon at time of scheduling.

**Coupon
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Autumn
Chili Recipe

Electrical Detectives

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Autumn Pumpkin Chili Recipe

This is a tasty fall-inspired pumpkin chili recipe which is sure to tempt even the most picky of eaters!

Ingredients:

- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 small green pepper, chopped
- 1 small sweet yellow pepper, chopped
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 pound ground turkey
- 1 can (15 oz) solid-pack pumpkin (not pie filling)
- 1 can (14 oz) diced tomatoes
- 4 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1/4 tsp pepper
- 1/4 tsp salt
- Optional topping: shredded cheddar and sour cream



Directions:

1. Saute the onion and green and yellow peppers in olive oil in a large skillet until tender.
2. Add garlic, cook 1 minute longer. Crumble turkey into skillet. Cook over medium heat until meat is no longer pink. Stir in the pumpkin, tomatoes, chili powder, pepper and salt.
3. Transfer mixture to a 4 qt pot. Bring to a boil, stirring regularly. Once boiling, reduce heat and simmer for 30 minutes.
4. Serve with sour cream and shredded cheddar cheese as garnish.

Credit: tasteofhome.com