



Be Sure To Call Us If...

1. Your electrical circuit-breakers frequently trip, or fuses blow. This means you are drawing more current than your home's system can provide. It could indicate a dangerous condition with one or more circuits.
2. Your lights flicker and dim. This may happen when you run too many appliances on too few circuits. Maybe the ceiling lights dim when your air conditioner starts up, or your vanity lights flicker when you turn on the hair dryer. These signs indicate that some of your appliances are drawing too much power and should have dedicated circuits.
3. You have no three-prong outlets. Some older homes were built with two-prong outlets only. Sure, you can buy cheap three-into-two adapters at the hardware store, but it may be that your electrical wiring is not fully grounded. For safety sake you are better off installing some three-prong outlets for your microwave, refrigerator and other heavy appliances that require them.

4. Outlets or switch plates are warm to the touch or, even worse, give you a mild shock. This is a big uh oh. It signals that there is too much demand on the circuit and maybe something even more dangerous. For instance, older homes built before 1975 may have aluminum wiring. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, aluminum wiring is 55 times more likely to cause a fire than copper wire!
5. You do not have Ground-Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCI) at outlets in the kitchen, bathrooms and other wet locations. GFCIs are safety outlets that constantly monitor electricity flowing in a circuit and automatically shut off to protect people from electrical shock. They typically have little reset buttons between the outlet holes that pop up if a circuit gets broken. You need to press them down again to restore the current. You should have them by sinks, dishwashers, bathroom lavs and everywhere else where water can reach the outlet.

Continued on Page 2

In This Issue:

Be Sure to Call Us If...

Page 1-2

Springtime Activities

Page 2

Common Home
Inspection Problems

Page 3

Spring into Savings
(Coupons)

Page 3

Spring Pasta Recipe

Page 4

Electrical Detectives

618.988.8731

ElectricalDetectives.com



Be Sure To Call Us If...

Continued from Page 1

6. You notice deteriorated wire insulation. When you remove an outlet or switch cover you may notice bits of black rubber in the box, or wires covered in cloth instead of plastic. Older homes in particular are susceptible to deteriorated insulation or half-baked do-it-yourself electrical projects by a previous owner.

7. You don't have enough outlets. You may get by with plug-strips and multi-receptacle add-on outlets, but they tax your electrical system to work beyond its capacity. Additional circuits and receptacles are needed for convenience and safety. If you have wires running under your rugs and furniture, especially extension cords, that's another safety hazard. It signals that your outlets are too far apart.

8. You notice rust or moisture by a service panel. This is a sign that something is wrong that threatens your main wiring connections.

9. Your home is old and you've never upgraded your electrical service. If your home is more than 20 years old, you may be living with an outdated and possibly hazardous electrical system. Call us for an inspection to bring it up to today's code standards.

Springtime Activities

Spring is the season when everything is blossoming back to life! What are your fondest memories of spring or summertime as a child? Did you go camping? Hiking? Swimming in the lake? If you have any children in your life, help them make the same great memories! Check out these ideas for awesome springtime activities.



1. Go on a nature walk: Children are natural explorers. Encourage their curiosity with a nature walk. Take along a notebook and colored pencils and have kids catalog the flowers they find. You can do the same with rocks and minerals. Another fun activity is creating your own map! Add landmarks, interesting trees or boulders, animal nests, and more.

2. Create a terrarium: You can use any plants, rocks, or other interesting finds from your nature walk to create a terrarium. The goal can be to recreate the environment from your nature walk but on a small scale. You can find terrariums at craft stores, garden stores, or online.

3. Create wall art: Spring weather can be unpredictable. On rainy days, hang large white banners or paper table cloths on the wall, grab a bucket of markers and crayons, and have a blast! Make an outline of your bodies while standing against the wall, then color them in to create life-size art of yourselves.

Professional, *reliable* service guaranteed to make you smile!

Call **618.988.8731**



Common Home Inspection Problems

Most home buyers hire professional home inspectors before completing the purchase. Here are some of the most common problems encountered by home inspectors:

- **Faulty wiring.** This includes things like open junction boxes, no wire nuts on wires, no 3-prong outlets and various other safety hazards. Often these result from do-it-yourself electrical projects by home owners who know just enough to be dangerous.
- **Ancient HVAC systems.** Old furnaces may still function okay but home inspectors will pay close attention to potential carbon monoxide hazards, such as a cracked heat exchanger. Some inspectors will warn the buyer of leaky ductwork and other inefficiencies as well.
- **Leaky plumbing.** Often the seller may not even notice the leaks. But an astute inspector will keep an eagle eye out for water stains, powdery residue, mold or mildew caused by subtle leaks that escape the casual eye. Damp basements often are caused not by leaks, but by clogged or bent gutters that fail to channel water away from the house. Tiny toilet leaks can damage the underlying subfloor.
- **Poor water pressure.** This is easy to detect and a buyer may insist on re-piping before concluding the sale, or ask for thousands of dollars off the sale price to cover such a project.
- **Foundation flaws.** These are often indicated by sloping floors and sticky doors and windows. These can be a deal breaker when it comes to selling your home unless the seller decides to spend thousands of dollars on repairs.



Spring Into Savings

\$20 off

Any Service

One time use. Minimum \$150 service. Expires 03/31/15. Cannot be combined with other offers. Coupon must be presented at time of service.

10% off

New Electrical Panel Installation

One time use. Expires 03/31/15. Cannot be combined with other offers. Coupon must be presented at time of service.

\$80 off

Interlok Kit Installation

One time use. Expires 03/31/15. Cannot be combined with other offers. Coupon must be presented at time of service.

In This Issue:

Be Sure To Call Us If...

Page 1-2

Springtime Activities

Page 2

Common Home
Inspection Problems

Page 3

Spring into Savings

Page 3

Spring Pasta Recipe

Page 4

PO Box 190

Energy IL 62933



Spring Pasta

Spring is the growing season for an assortment of fresh, healthy vegetables. Here's a recipe for a simple spring pasta with bowtie pasta, fava beans, bacon, basil, and Romano cheese.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups shelled fava beans
- 6 ounces uncooked farfalle (bowtie pasta)
- 2 tbsp. extra-virgin olive oil
- 6 center-cut bacon slices, cut into 1/2" pieces
- 5 garlic cloves, sliced
- 3 ounces thinly sliced mushrooms
- 1 cup fresh green peas
- 2 tsp lemon juice
- Salt, to taste
- 5tbsp pecorino Romano cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup torn basil leaves

Directions

1. Place fava beans in a large pot of boiling water; cook 1 minute. Drain rinse with cold water. Drain well. Remove tough outer skins from beans.
2. Cook pasta according to package directions.
3. Heat a large nonstick skillet over medium-high heat. Add 1 tbsp. oil to pan; swirl to coat. Add bacon; sauté 3 minutes or until bacon begins to brown. Add garlic. Saute 3 minutes or until tender.
4. Add mushrooms; sauté 3 minutes. Add fava beans and peas and sauté an additional 2 minutes. Add pasta to the sautéed mixture. Stir in remaining oil, add 2tsp lemon juice.
5. Cook 2 minutes or until thoroughly heated. Remove pan from heat, then stir in 3 tbsp. cheese. Divide among 4 bowls, and top with remaining 2 tbsp. cheese and basil. Serve immediately.



Source: www.myrecipes.com