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To Helpful Hints and Tips from Thomas Edison Electric

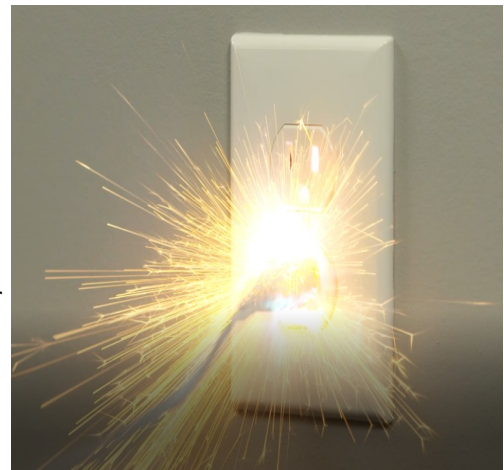
Hint and Tip Number 39: Sparking Outlets

August 20th, 2018

Sparking outlets are worth paying attention to, although it may be harmless, some sparks can be an early sign of a dangerous problem.

The Four Types Of Outlet Sparks That You Shouldn't Ignore:

- **Long Sparks:** A safe spark is very short and will come and go in a flash, where one that fizzles and lingers is a sure sign of a problem.
- **Big Sparks:** Sparks that are leaping out of the outlet cover should not be ignored.
- **Yellow or White Sparks:** harmless sparks are usually blue in colour, but if the spark is yellow or white there is a problem.
- **Smelly Sparks:** If the outlet spark is followed by a burning smell you may have an immediate problem. You should shut off the outlet on the circuit breaker and call an electrical specialist right away.



What May Be Causing The Problem:

1. **Short Circuits:** If an outlet's hot wire is touching its neutral or ground wire, it may cause a short circuit. You can shut off the outlets circuit breaker then remove the outlet plate to check for visible signs of a short circuit. If you see any, please contact your electrical specialist.
2. **Moisture:** You may have a leak in your walls or other reasons why water would enter your outlet which would cause sparks caused by a short circuit or other electrical damage.
3. **Overloading:** The more appliances and devices you have plugged in to a single outlet the greater the chances for sparking. Have your electrician install more outlets in your home to avoid overloading.
4. **Old Outlets:** With repeated use over time, the electrical contact points inside your outlets can wear out. It may be wise to replace your outlets by an electrical specialist from time to time.

Contact Thomas Edison Electric Today if you have any of the issues mentioned above.

