

# PLUGGING YOU IN

To Helpful Hints and Tips from Thomas Edison Electric

Hint and Tip Number 40: AFCI Protectors

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## Electrical Safety Benefits of AFCI Protectors

### What is an Arc Fault:

An Arc Fault occurs when electrical wiring, appliances or electrical devices become overheated, damaged or otherwise stressed. This may be caused by old wires becoming cracked or frayed, overloading your circuits or when a screw or nail pierces a wire through the wall.

Arc Faults are very dangerous and are a leading cause of house fires throughout the country.

### Having AFCI Protectors Are The Answer

AFCI or Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters are exactly that. AFCI's literally interrupt an arc fault; they prevent an overheating, overload or short circuit breaker from causing major problems in your home. Located in your home's electrical panel, an AFCI functions as a "normal" breaker while providing a higher level of protection. Like a normal breaker, a AFCI will trip or shut down the electricity when it senses a dangerous condition. AFCIs often can be distinguished from a normal breaker by a different coloured button near the handle.



### The Difference between AFCIs and GFCIs

GFCIs protect you from electrocution in areas where electricity can come in contact with water such as your kitchen, bathroom, laundry room etc. The AFCI protects branch circuits from igniting and causing house fires. You should have both AFCI Protectors and GFCI outlets installed in your home.

Contact Thomas Edison Electric today to inspect your circuit breaker for AFCI protectors and if you do not have any, have our experts install them immediately to help protect your family and home from a potential fire hazard.

