

PREVENT HOME ELECTRICAL FIRES

**A Practical Guide To Prevention
From
Thomas Edison Electric**

The logo for Thomas Edison Electric features a cartoon illustration of an elderly man in a suit and bow tie, holding a glowing light bulb. To the right of the illustration, the text 'Thomas Edison Electric' is written in a serif font. Below this, a blue banner with a white border contains the text '...the Homeowners' Electrician' in white. A small hand icon is positioned below the banner.

**Thomas
Edison
Electric**
...the Homeowners' Electrician

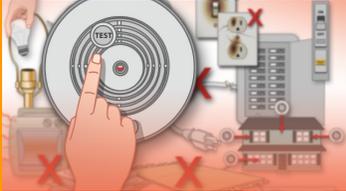
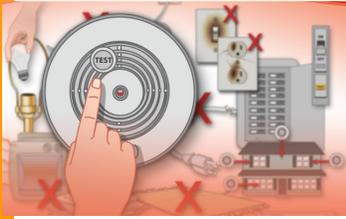


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Thomas Edison Electric would like to pass on these tips for you to follow to Prevent Electrical Fires in your home. Your family and home are your most precious possessions, so follow these tips to keep them safe.

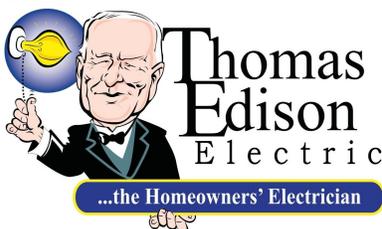
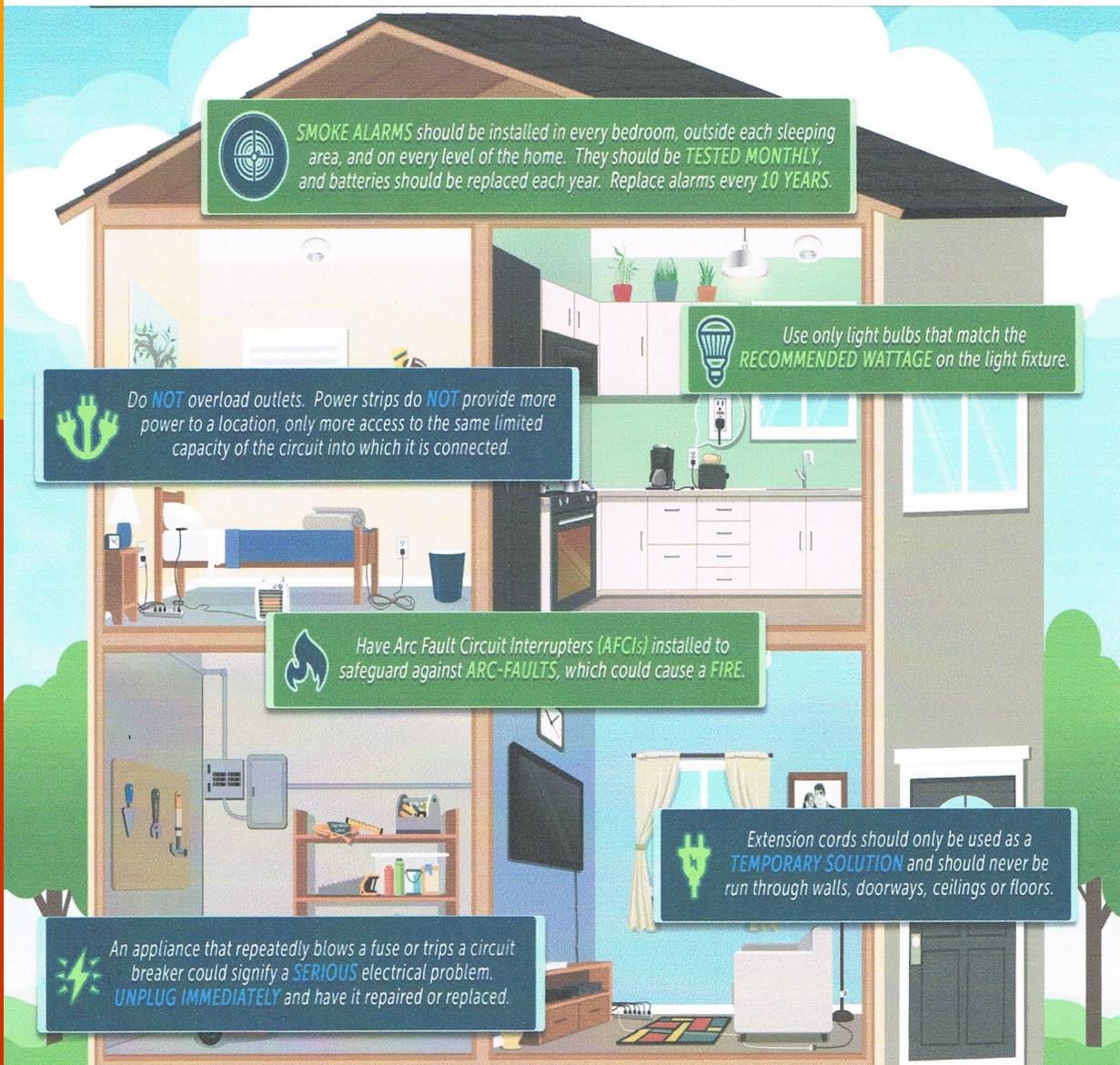
Follow these tips for a safer home:

- Smoke Alarms should be installed in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home. They should be TESTED MONTHLY, and batteries should be replaced each year. Replace alarms every 10 YEARS.
- Do NOT overload outlets. Power strips do NOT provide more power to a location, only more access to the same limited capacity of the circuit into which it is connected
- Use only light bulbs that match the RECOMMENDED WATTAGE on the light fixture
- Have Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) and Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) installed to safeguard against fires and shocks.
- Extension cords should only be used as a TEMPORARY SOLUTION and should never be run through walls, doorways, ceilings, or floors

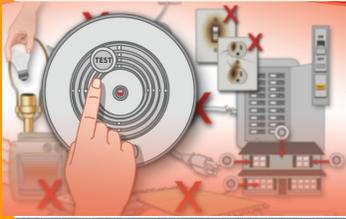


PREVENT FIRES PROTECT THE HOME

There are many safe practices that can help prevent fires and promote electrical safety throughout your home. The following pages contain a breakdown for the bedrooms, kitchen, living/family room and garage/utility room. Contact Thomas Edison Electric if any of these rooms in your home do not have the electrical safety recommendations needed to keep everyone safe.



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PREVENT FIRES PROTECT THE HOME

Bedroom Safety

Have Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (AFCIs) installed to safeguard against arc-faults, which could cause a fire.

If using a heating pad or electric blanket, do not place anything on top of them and don't leave them on unattended or while sleeping.

Do not sleep with devices that are charging, such as phones, under your pillow.

Tamper Resistant Receptacles (TRRs) should be installed in all bedrooms. This device allows only plugs to be inserted while preventing access to foreign objects, like hairpins.

Never leave a space heater unattended. Turn it off when you're leaving a room or going to sleep.

Never wrap or bundle cords together. This prevents the heat from dissipating, leading to a fire hazard.

Kitchen Safety

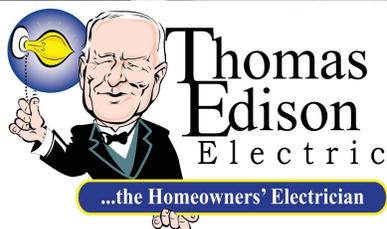
Check for recalls on appliances at Health Canada Services/consumer products

The outlets in your kitchen should have Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI) protection. Remember to test GFCIs monthly to ensure they are functioning properly.

Unplug all countertop appliances after use. Do so by pulling on the plug, not the cord, to avoid damage to the cord.

Never leave food that is cooking unattended.

Keep all countertop appliances and their cords away from the sink and heat sources, like the stovetop.



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PREVENT FIRES PROTECT THE HOME

Garage / Utility Room Safety

GFCI protection should be used in areas where electricity could come in contact with water, including bathrooms. GFCI receptacles, breakers and portable options are available.



Store electrical equipment in dry areas that are inaccessible to children and animals.

Use only extension cords marked "for outdoor use" when needed for work outside.



Store all flammable materials in approved containers and away from any potential heat sources, including direct sunlight.



NEVER use a generator inside a garage or any other enclosed space, even with the door open. Dangerous levels of carbon monoxide could accumulate.

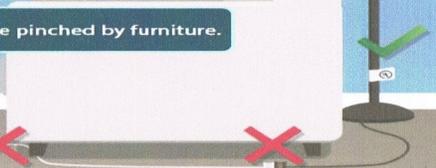
Living Room Safety

Use surge protection devices to protect your television and other electronic equipment from damage.

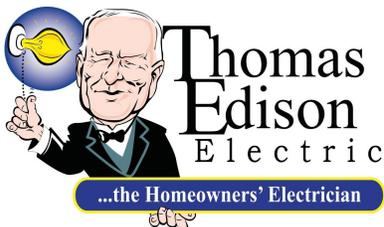
To avoid damage, never nail or staple cords to the wall or baseboard.

To avoid counterfeit or dangerous products, only buy electronics that bear the mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory sold by reputable retailers.

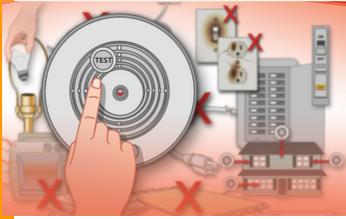
Cords should not run under rugs, through walls or be pinched by furniture.



Never attempt to extend the length of an extension cord by connecting it with another extension cord.

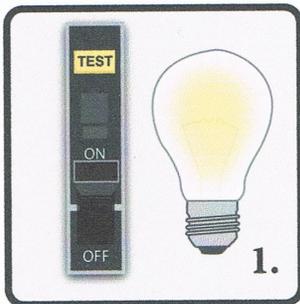


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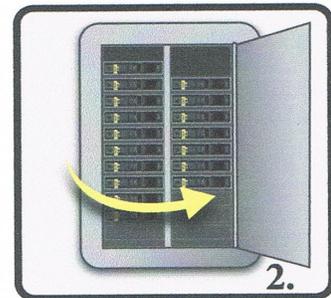


How To Test An AFCI

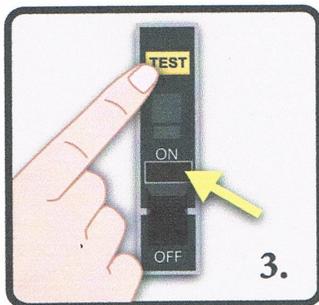
Arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs) provide advanced protection against electrical fires, but only if they are working properly. Follow these easy steps to test your AFCI **every month**:



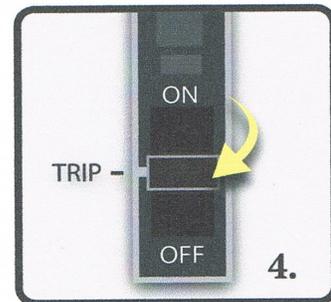
1. Test AFCIs when your power is on.



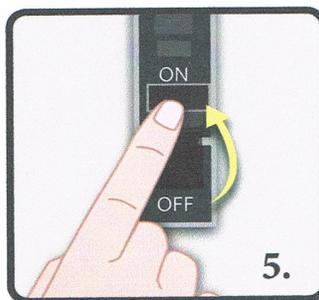
2. Open the electrical service panel.



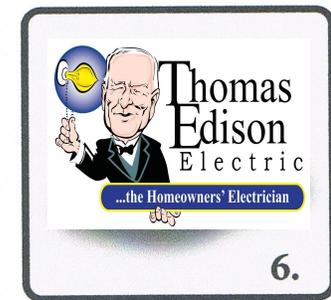
3. With the breaker switch in the ON position, press the AFCI TEST button.



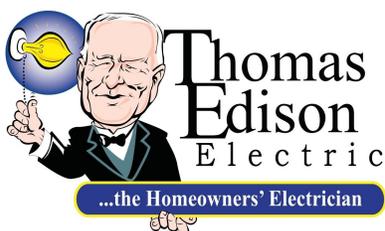
4. The AFCI should trip, causing the switch to move to either the OFF position or the TRIP position if the breaker includes one.



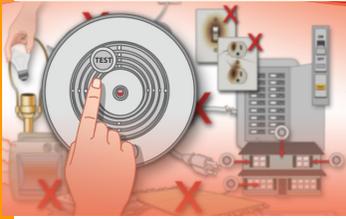
5. If it trips, the AFCI is working. Turn it OFF and then ON again to reset.



6. If the AFCI does not trip, contact a licensed electrician to replace it.



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How To Test An GFCI

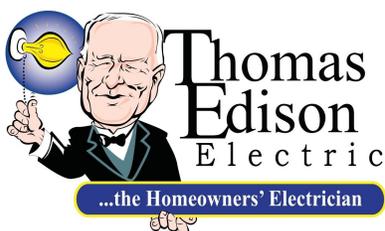
Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters (GFCIs) have saved thousands of lives. Make sure your home is properly protected against ground faults with the correct installation of GFCIs by a qualified electrician.

GFCI Protection is required for outlets installed in:

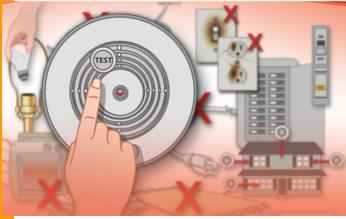


How to Test a GFCI

- 1 Push the **RESET** button
- 2 Plug in a nightlight or similar device
- 3 The nightlight should be **ON**.
- 4 Press the **TEST** button.
- 5 The nightlight should turn **OFF**.
- 6 Push the **RESET** button again.
- 7 The nightlight should turn back **ON**.
- 8 If the device does not turn on, **contact a qualified electrician** to inspect the outlet.



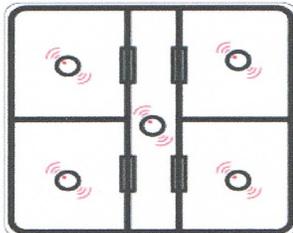
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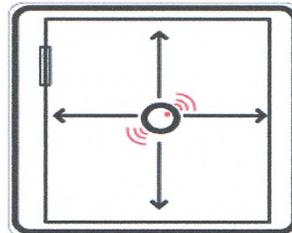
SMOKE ALARM SAFETY TIPS

Smoke alarms saves lives. Follow this simple guidance to ensure that your home is adequately protected by working, properly installed smoke alarms.

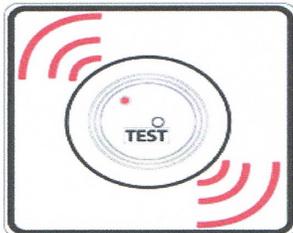
Smoke Alarm Safety Tips



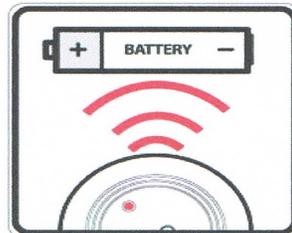
Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.



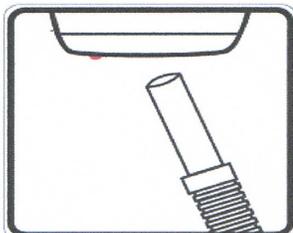
If possible, alarms should be mounted in the center of a ceiling.



Smoke alarms should be tested once a month by pressing the TEST button.



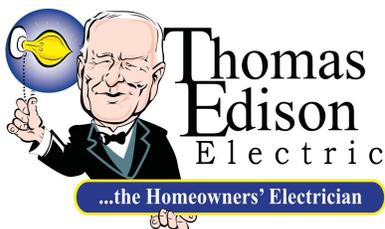
Smoke alarm batteries should be replaced at least once a year. If an alarm "chirps" or beeps to indicate low batteries, they should be replaced immediately.



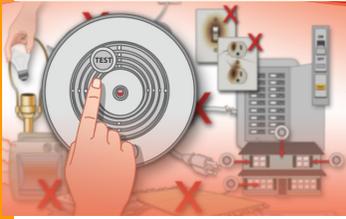
Occasionally dust or lightly vacuum the exterior of the alarm to remove dust and cobwebs.



Smoke alarms should be replaced at least every ten years.



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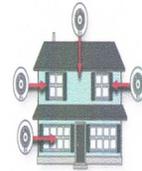


ELECTRICAL FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

Electrical fires DO NOT have to happen. Use this checklist to help you find and fix electrical fire hazards in your home before they can start a fire

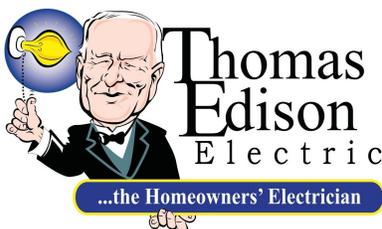
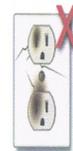
Smoke Alarms

<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have smoke alarms in all the right locations?	NO or I DON'T KNOW: Install smoke alarms on each level of your home, outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom	Smoke alarms save lives. Nearly two-thirds of home fire deaths occur in homes without working smoke alarms
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you test them once an month?	NO: Test smoke alarms once a month by pressing the TEST button.	Smoke alarms can stop working without showing signs of failure, so regular testing is necessary to ensure they are working properly.
<input type="checkbox"/> Have you changed the batteries this year?	NO: Replace batteries at least once a year or sooner if they begin to "chirp."	When batteries run down, the smoke alarm will not sound.
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you know how old your alarms are?	NO: Smoke alarms should be replaced at least every 10 years. Replace alarms if you are unsure of their age.	The components inside smoke alarms can wear out over time, which could affect their operation.

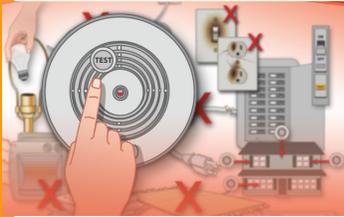


Switches and Outlets

<input type="checkbox"/> Are all the switches and outlets working properly	NO: Have a Thomas Edison Electric Technician check the switches and outlets.	Improperly operating switches or outlets may indicate an unsafe wiring condition, which could be a fire hazard.
<input type="checkbox"/> Are any switches or outlets warm to the touch?	YES: Stop using these switches and outlets until they are checked by a Thomas Edison Electric Technician.	Unusually warm switches or outlets may indicate an unsafe wiring condition.
<input type="checkbox"/> Do any switches or outlets make cracking, buzzing, or sizzling sounds?	YES: Have a Thomas Edison Electric Technician check these switches and outlets.	Unusual noises from a switch or outlet may indicate an unsafe wiring condition, such as a loose electrical connection
<input type="checkbox"/> Do plugs fit snugly into all outlets?	NO: Outlets without a snug fit should be replaced by a Technician from Thomas Edison Electric	Loose-fitting plugs can cause overheating and fires.



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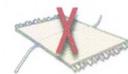


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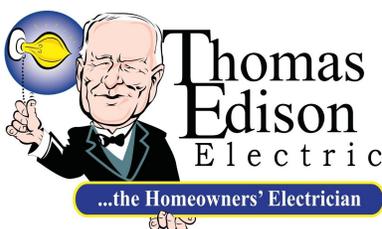
Cords

<input type="checkbox"/> Is any cord cracked, frayed or otherwise damaged?	Yes: Do not use damaged cords. Have a Technician from Thomas Edison Electric replace the cord or equipment.	Damaged cords may have exposed wires that can be a fire and shock hazard.
<input type="checkbox"/> Are any cords pinched by furniture or in doors/windows?	YES: Move furniture or relocate cords to prevent cord damage.	Pinching cords can cause damage to the insulation or break wire strands, creating a fire or shock hazard.
<input type="checkbox"/> Are cords attached to anything with nails or staples?	YES: Remove nails or staples. Check cord and replace if damaged.	Nails and staples can cut or pinch insulation or break wire strands, presenting a fire or shock hazard.
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you use extension cords on a permanent basis?	YES: Have a Technician from Thomas Edison Electric install new outlets where needed or move equipment closer to the outlet.	Extension cords are designed to be used only temporarily. Extended use may damage the cord, creating a fire and shock hazard.
<input type="checkbox"/> Are cords wrapped up while being used?	YES: Unwrap cords.	Wrapped cords trap heat, which can lead to melting or weakening of the insulation.

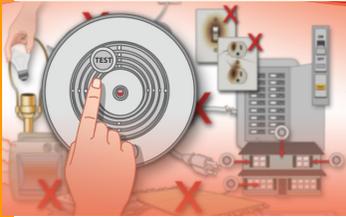


Lamps and Appliances

<input type="checkbox"/> Are you using the appropriate wattage light bulb in all lamps and light fixtures?	NO or I DON'T KNOW: Replace incorrect bulbs of the proper wattage. Use bulbs of 60 watts or less if you are unsure of the appropriate wattage.	A bulb with a wattage higher than recommended may overheat the light fixture, wiring or nearby combustible material, leading to a fire.
<input type="checkbox"/> Are portable electric heaters kept at least 3 feet away from anything that can burn?	NO: Move heater at least 3 feet away from combustible material such as curtains, bedding, and newspapers.	Some heaters can produce enough heat to ignite nearby combustible materials.
<input type="checkbox"/> Are all appliance cords places so they will not come in contact with hot surfaces?	NO: Move cords away from all heat sources, such as heaters, range and toaster.	Cords can melt or burn from excess heat. This can expose wires and lead to a fire or electric shock.



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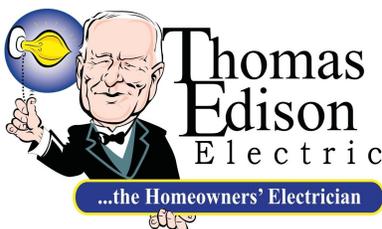
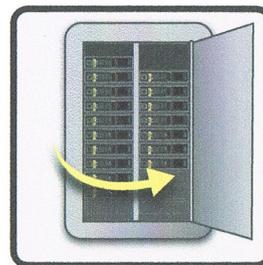
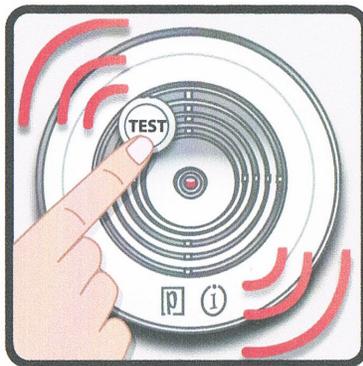


ELECTRICAL FIRE SAFETY CHECKLIST

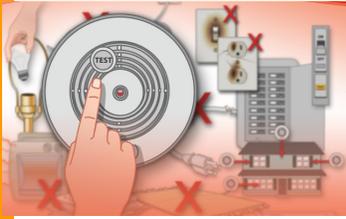
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Electric Panel

<input type="checkbox"/> Are fuses or circuit breakers the correct size for the circuit?	NO or I DON'T KNOW: Have a Technician from Thomas Edison Electric determine the correct sizes and install them.	The wrong size fuse or circuit breaker can cause the wiring to overheat, creating a fire hazard.
<input type="checkbox"/> Do you have arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs)?	NO: Consider having A Technician from Thomas Edison Electric replace the standard circuit breaker with AFCIs	AFCIs are advanced circuit breakers that provide greater electrical fire protection.
<input type="checkbox"/> If AFCIs are installed, do you test them every month?	NO: Test AFCI's monthly using the TEST button on the AFCI. Have a Technician from Thomas Edison Electric replace defective AFCIs.	AFCIs can stop working without showing signs of failure, so regular testing is necessary to ensure they are working properly.



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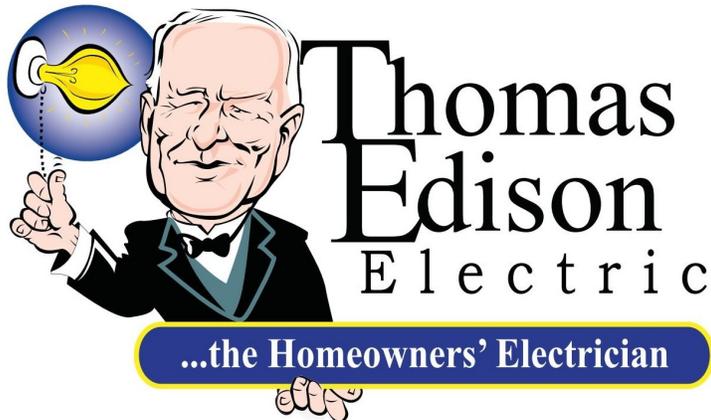
Final Words

We here, at Thomas Edison Electric hope you read and use this Prevent Home Electric Fires PDF to keep your family and home safe from electrical fires.

If you have any further questions or wish to schedule an appointment with us for an electrical inspection of your home do not hesitate to contact us.

We also wish to inform you, we are on duty 24/7 for emergency calls. If you think you see a potential electrical danger in your home, please contact us immediately.

The Team At Thomas Edison Electric



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