

Welcome to your guide for maintaining the electrical system in your home. Regular maintenance and care are essential to ensure safety, efficiency, and longevity of your electrical components.

Maintenance of Light Fixtures

1. Regular Cleaning:

- Turn off the power and allow fixture to cool before cleaning.
- Use a soft, dry cloth to dust the fixtures.
- For glass covers, remove and wash with mild soap and water. Dry thoroughly before replacing.

2. Check for Damage:

- Inspect for loose or frayed wires to prevent electrical hazards.
- Ensure bulbs are properly screwed in and of the correct wattage:
 - Avoid Over-tightening: Over-tightening can break the bulb at the base, making it difficult to remove.
 - Wattage Check: Using an oversized bulb wattage can be a fire hazard. Always check the sticker near where the bulb screws in for the maximum wattage for that fixture.
 - Safety Precaution: Do not hang items near fixtures, as the heat from the fixture can cause foreign objects to catch fire.

Maintenance of Receptacle Outlets

1. Inspect Outlets:

- Check for signs of wear, such as cracks or discoloration.
- Ensure outlets are snugly fitted into the wall.

2. Test Outlets:

- Use an outlet tester to check for proper grounding and wiring.
- If an outlet is warm to the touch, discontinue use and call a professional.

Maintenance of Light Switches

1. Inspect for Damage:

- Ensure switches are not cracked or broken.
- Listen for any buzzing sounds, which could indicate a problem.

2. Check Functionality:

- If a switch feels loose or doesn't operate smoothly, it may need replacement.

Maintenance of Breaker Box

1. Visual Inspection:

- Ensure the area around the breaker box is dry and free from obstructions.
- Look for any signs of corrosion or damage.

2. Test Breakers:

- Periodically flip each breaker off and then back on to ensure they are functioning correctly.
- Label each breaker clearly for easy identification.
- If a breaker needs replaced, call an electrical contractor.

Maintenance of Smoke Detectors

1. Regular Testing:

- Test smoke detectors monthly by pressing the test button.
- Replace batteries at least once a year or when the low battery alarm sounds.

2. Cleaning:

- Use a vacuum or a soft brush to remove dust from the detector.
- Replace smoke detectors every 10 years.

Troubleshooting Guide

Issue	Possible Cause	Remedy
Light flickering or will not go on	Loose bulb or connection	Tighten the bulb, check connections, or replace the bulb. If all the lights throughout your house are dimming, call your power supplier.
	Large load on circuit	Plug the item that is drawing power into a different outlet (e.g. hair dryer, computer, power tools, vacuum)
Recessed light fixture goes on and off	Bulb wattage is too high or Not rated for direct contact with insulation	Install a lower wattage bulb or Push insulation away from fixture to allow heat to escape
Exterior bulbs burn out frequently	Bulb not rated for heavy usage	Install a bulb designed for heavy usage
Outlet not working	Tripped breaker or GFCI	Reset the breaker or GFCI by pushing the test button, then the reset button.
	Switch is not on	Turn on switch. Some outlets are ½ hot and are controlled by a switch. These outlets are designated by them being turned upside down.
Light switch warm	Overloaded switch	Reduce load, consider replacing switch
Breaker keeps tripping	Overloaded circuit	Redistribute load, call electrician
Power goes out in all of the house	Utility company lost power	Call power supplier
	Main breaker out	At breaker box, locate breaker marked “MAIN”. Reset by turning off, then back on. If it will not reset, then call an electrical contractor.
Power goes out in part of the house	Tripped breaker	At breaker box, locate breaker that is in the middle position. Reset by turning off, then back on. If it will not reset, then call an electrical contractor.
	Too heavy of a load	Unplug item that is drawing power and try different location.
	GFI outlet needs reset	Locate GFI outlet, Push the test button, then the reset button. (Locations for GFI outlets are bathrooms, kitchen, laundry, garage, exterior outlets, and soffits.)



Homeowner's Guide to Care and Maintenance Your Electrical System
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Issue	Possible Cause	Remedy
Smoke detector chirping	Low battery	Replace battery
	Loss of power	Check breaker box for tripped breaker and/or refer to smoke detector user's manual.
Smoke detectors go off continuously	Smoke in house	Get out of the house, call the fire department.
	Dust in pick-up chamber	Blow out dust (see user's manual).
	Atmospheric pressure change	If problem seems to be excessive, call an electrical contractor.
	Low battery	Change batteries every year.
	Bad detector	Unplug detectors until they stop sounding, then replace or call an electrical contractor.

Tech Know Systems LLC Legal Statement

Tech Know Systems LLC is not responsible for any injuries, damages, or losses resulting from the use of this guide. Electrical work can be dangerous and should be performed by qualified individuals. For any electrical issues beyond basic troubleshooting, it is recommended to contact a licensed electrician.

By following these maintenance tips, you can help ensure the safety and efficiency of your home's electrical system. Regular attention to your electrical components can prevent many common issues and extend the lifespan of your system. If you encounter any complex problems, don't hesitate to call Tech Know Systems LLC or TDR Electric at 208-342-3748 or contact a professional electrician.