



Common Electrical Problems

1. Frequent Electrical Surges

Electrical surges can be caused by many issues. They can be caused by factors outside the home, such as lightning strikes or damaged power lines, but can also be caused by faulty appliances or bad electrical wiring inside your home. Surges can cause damage to the electrical components inside your home.

2. Sags or Dips in Power

Like electrical surges, sags and dips in power supply can be caused by appliances connected to your electrical supply that are faulty or draw significant power when they are turned on.

3. Light Switches Not Working Properly

If there is no power to the circuit the light switch will not work at all. A light switch has many small parts contained inside the plastic casing, the switch can go bad in many places and may need to be replaced. Faulty wiring can also be an issue.

4. Flickering or Dim Lights

If you notice lights around your home that seem excessively bright while others are dim, it could be something as simple as bulbs with different wattage, however, it could be caused by other items that would need to be checked by a professional. Flickering lights for instance could be triggered by a poor connection on the circuit.

5. Circuit Breakers Tripping Frequently

Appliances that carry high wattage such as microwaves, space heaters and hair dryers can trip circuit breakers, particularly when other items are being used on the same supply. A circuit breaker is designed to protect your home and your family, so if it trips it is likely doing its job.

One of the most frequent causes of circuit breaker trips is the overloading. Most homes and apartments, even newer ones, may not have enough power to support all the devices you are trying to use. If circuit breakers in your home are tripping frequently, it could be caused by overloaded circuits.

6. Noticeable Sparks

If you notice sparks or shocks coming from any of your electrical components, you are at risk as well as your home. In most cases, it is best to speak with an electrician if you notice this at any time.

7. Light bulbs frequently burn out

Bad wiring, dimmer switches and incompatible bulb wattage are some of the reasons that your light bulbs could be burning out too frequently. If you are constantly replacing bulbs it is likely worthwhile to call an electrician to help diagnose the problem.

8. Excessive heat out of switches or dimmers

This is a common problem; dimmer switches can be overloaded. Every light switch has a maximum load, measured in watts that they can handle safely. If it is excessively warm there is likely too much power running through it.

9. Plugs that do not work

Building codes require the installation of ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in places with water like bathrooms, kitchens, and laundry rooms. There is a chance that just one of these need to be reset, however, they could also have a bad connection that may require a professional electrician to help diagnose.

10. Exposed Wiring

Wiring should not be accessible or exposed where physical contact/damage is possible. Contact an electrician to make sure your home has the proper safety prevention in place.

11. Knob and Tube Replacement

This style of wiring was popular from 1880s to 1950s, although it is still found in homes today, it should be replaced with modern plastic sheathed wire system. Fuse boxes on these old wiring systems are less robust than modern breaker boxes.

12. Outdated Panels

If you own an older home with a fuse box or have circuit breakers with outdated amperage, it is likely time to consider electric panel replacement. You may be experiencing a number of the items listed above if it is time to replace your electrical panel.