

HOT OFF THE

WIRE™

NEWS YOU CAN USE AROUND YOUR HOME

WINTER 2013

Just How Healthy Is Your Home's Electrical System?

Having an "Electrical Physical" Conducted Annually Drastically Reduces the Chances of Electrical Emergencies Happening at the Worst of Times, Saving You Time, Money, and Frustration

Getting a regular medical check-up is something everyone should have done. In fact, most doctors would recommend seeing them at least annually for a physical. It allows the doctor to look for any signs of disease or other abnormalities. Certain tests can be conducted to look for hidden issues. If nothing else, it gives you some peace of mind that you're healthy.

Believe it or not, your electrical system should receive similar attention. Think about how often your electrical system gets used over the course of a year. It always seems to work without a problem. However, do you really know how "healthy" your electrical system is? For example, do you know if your electrical panel may be getting overloaded and is at risk of breaking down and even being a fire hazard? If you don't have a regular electrical inspection conducted, the answer is, unfortunately, no.

Electrical problems have a tendency to happen at the absolute worst time. I can't tell you how many clients call us at two in the morning on a weeknight or on a Saturday afternoon with a house full of guests. Usually, the problem they're experiencing could have been avoided with an inspection.

At Iddings Electric, we don't want you to face electrical emergencies. That's why we offer a full-scale electrical inspection; it's not that dissimilar to a physical that you'd receive at your doctor's office. It's a key part of our Home Protection Plan. As you know (I'm also guilty), it's easy to lose track of time and forget to schedule your physical. As a Home Protection Plan member, we'll remind you of your annual inspection and work with you to fit it into your busy schedule.

As a Home Protection Plan member, you get a host of benefits including:

Annual Electrical-Safety Inspection

Your family's continued safety is our top priority. That's why we're here. As a part of our commitment

to safety, you will receive an annual inspection. It's important that you receive one annually because electrical systems—wiring, breakers, outlets, and more—can all change greatly over 12 months.

Priority Service

When you need electrical service, you want it fast! As a Home Protection Plan member, you and your family are our first priority, and when you call us, you go straight to the front of the line! Being a plan member is like having an electrician on-call with his motor running just waiting for you to call. It's that fast!

Service-Satisfaction Commitment

We promise you'll be satisfied with any service we perform in your home for as long as you're a Home Protection Plan member.

Exclusive Specials

From time to time, you'll be able to take advantage of Home Protection Plan special offers and exclusive discounts!

A Home-Value Booster

Your Home Protection Plan is transferable to a new owner if you sell your home. The peace-of-mind the membership brings is a huge selling point! Or it can move with you if you stay in our service area!

Safety Savings

With the Home Protection Plan, you'll receive a 10% discount on products and services needed to bring your home up to the minimum standards of the National Fire Protection Association® to help keep you and your family safe.

Call Iddings Electric at 717-355-9675 for more information about our Home Protection Plan and the electrical inspection that comes with it! This "electrical physical" will provide you with peace of mind that your home's electrical system is working well. Should there be a looming issue, it can likely be addressed before it becomes an emergency!

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How Would Your Life Be Impacted without Power for a Week or Longer?

Protect Your Health, Safety, and Finances with a Generator for Your Home

Power keeps your life running. Your home is your getaway, your sanctuary, your investment, and you may not even realize how much of it depends on uninterrupted electricity. Blackouts and power outages occur without warning, disrupting your family's needs and putting your life on hold. That's what precisely happened to millions of Americans after Hurricane Sandy struck.

Thousands of people across the Eastern Seaboard were still without power in their homes two weeks after the initial devastation. How do you prepare for a natural disaster? What can be done to reduce its incredible impact? The answer: Invest in a generator. In fact, in a report recently published by *Businessweek*[®], manufacturers of generators are reporting expected dramatic increases in demand—and for good reason.

Take a moment and consider how your life would be impacted without electricity for a week? It's not a pretty thought. Yet you never know if and when you will be stuck in that position. After all, every part of this country could be impacted by some type of natural disaster—tornadoes, earthquakes, flooding, hurricanes, blizzards, etc. That's why it's best to be prepared.

Beyond dealing with darkness, think about how much you rely on electricity for everything. Generators keep lights and lives running. Electricity is counted on to operate:

- Life-sustaining equipment & medicine—Several hours without power can compromise a person's health.

- Heating & cooling system—Four hours without conditioned air can put the elderly and children at risk.
- Communication devices—Portable and cell phones only have 4 to 8 hours of battery life.
- Family's food supply—A family of four can lose up to \$800 of food without power for 24 hours.
- Digital information & records—If you work from home, a loss of critical information can be devastating.

There are many more problems a lack of power can cause. If you have to stay at a hotel for an extended period, that can be hundreds more lost. Lighting and security systems will no longer operate—and appliances and electronics can be permanently damaged by surges that happen when power is restored.

When you consider the magnitude of what can transpire without electricity for an extended period, generators make all the sense in the world, which is why the demand is spiking. At Iddings Electric, we can provide your home with a generator. We offer a variety and can find the exact one to fit your needs.

Call us at 717-355-9675 and I'll happily come to your house—at no charge—to discuss your options. We can talk about the most economical generator for you and your family. If you call by April 5, 2013 you will receive \$150 off your generator! Call me soon! The clock is ticking on this great offer!

Make Sure to Prepare Your Home & Family in Case of a Natural Disaster

Hurricane Sandy reminded many people that natural disasters can happen at any time and impact any part of the country. Some disasters provide warning, although many others do not. That's why it's important that you're prepared for the worst at all times. It's not that difficult to do. Below are some things that you can do to be prepared.

Preparing Your House:

- Find out where utility shut-offs are for water, power, and gas.
- Store household chemicals on a bottom shelf of a closed cabinet.
- Keep all tree and shrub limbs trimmed so they don't come in contact with wires.
- Store combustible or flammable materials in approved safety containers and keep them away from the house.
- Install smoke detectors on every level of your home and near sleeping areas.

Food & Water:

- Plan for a minimum of three cans of food per person, per day, for a week. Additional food should be stored in the garage. Pay close attention to how the packaging will hold up to damp environments. Cans may rust unless you protect them—a good way to protect items for damp storage is to put them individually in Ziploc[®] bags and then pack them inside a food-grade plastic bucket (with lid). Don't forget a manual can opener!

- Plan to have 30 gallons of water per person (2 gallons per person, per day for 1 week). Large food-grade, 55-gallon plastic drums are ideal for bulk-water storage. Remember that these water bottles will need to be rotated since they have a limited shelf life unless water treatment is used. Remember also that your water heater in the house is typically 50 gallons and may be used.

Other Important Items:

- Make sure you have a complete first-aid kit. Consider keeping extra prescription medications inside the kit and rotate them to avoid expiration.
- Have multiple flashlights available with a bounty of batteries for back-up.
- Have several battery-powered AM/FM hand radios.
- Make a list of important phone numbers.
- Have a stock of toilet-tissue rolls, paper towels, and pre-moistened towelettes.
- Keep all-purpose liquid soap on hand.
- Have tooth brushes and paste.

Finally, you should have an emergency plan that includes escape routes and meeting places. Choose both a nearby meeting place and an out-of-state relative to be your check-in contact for the family. Test/role-play your emergency plan with all members of your family present.



Tasty Winter Recipe: Chicken & Sausage Gumbo

Prep Time: 15 minutes

Cook Time: 1 hour, 15 minutes

Ingredients:

- 1/3 cup vegetable oil
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1 onion, diced
- 2 ribs celery, diced
- 1 green bell pepper, diced
- 8 oz Andouille sausage, or other smoked sausage
- 3 cloves garlic, crushed fine
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 1/2 tbsp paprika
- 1/2 tsp cayenne pepper, or to taste
- 1/2 tsp black pepper
- 3 cups chicken broth, or as needed
- 6 boneless, skinless, chicken thighs cut in 2" pieces
- 1/2 cup minced green onions
- 6 cups cooked rice, optional

Directions:

Make the roux in a heavy Dutch oven or pot; cook the oil and flour over low heat, stirring until it is a nutty, golden-brown color. This will take 15 to 30 minutes. Depending on the cook, and version of the recipe, a Cajun roux can range from blond to very dark brown. This recipe suggests something in between for the best results.

Add onion, celery, and bell peppers to the roux and cook for another 10 minutes to soften the vegetables. Add the sausage and garlic; stir and cook for 1 minute. Add the stock and turn heat up to med-low. Bring to a simmer and cook, stirring occasionally for 30 minutes. Add stock, as needed, if it is getting too thick.

Stir in the chicken and cook for 30 more minutes, or until the chicken is cooked and tender. Stir in the green onions, and add more stock to adjust to desired thickness. Cook for 2 minutes, and turn off heat. Taste for salt and spice, and adjust seasoning if needed. Serve with rice if desired.

WINTER WORD SEARCH

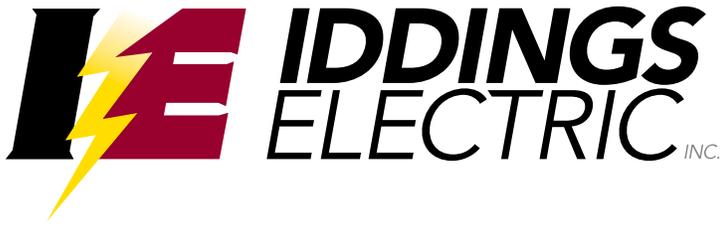
Be the first to complete the word search, and you will receive a gift certificate to Squire Side Café. Everyone who submits the puzzle gets \$50 OFF any future service! Mail completed puzzle to: 325 C. West Main St., New Holland, PA 17557

Or scan and email completed puzzle to: Connie@iddingselectric.com

BLIZZARD
COLD
DRIFTS
FLURRY
FROZEN
ICE CRYSTALS
PACKED
POWDERY
SHOVEL
SLIPPERY

SNOW FORTS
SNOWBALLS
SNOWBANK
SNOWMAN
PLOW
STICKY
SUBZERO
UNIQUE
WHITE

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717-355-9675

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Surging Forward



*From the Desk
of Shawn Iddings*

Iddings Electric Inc.

Have you ever had a hangnail before? You brush your hand against something, and that nail catches. Boy, does it hurt! It's an annoyance. You try to pluck the little thing with your fingers. You even try to bite it. But nothing works until you finally get some trimmers.

If you're like me, you probably have a to-do list. Trying to get everything accomplished on that to-do list can be just as irritating and painful as that occasional hangnail. But do you know what's even more frustrating? Seeing the same projects on that to-do list day after day, week after week, and month after month! It's maddening!

Well, it's been my experience that many, many times there are a few electrical items on those to-do lists. Maybe you have an outlet that never seems to work? Maybe you have a light fixture that constantly flickers? Or maybe you've been meaning to add a ceiling fan in a room?

If you find yourself with an issue like that on your to-do list, this is your lucky day! Let me explain... You see, I absolutely love winter. However, business can occasionally slow down. It happens every year!

But that leaves me with a small problem. If I'm slow, I don't have work for my hard-working and knowledgeable technicians. I want to make sure they're busy—and that's where you can benefit! If you call by April 5, 2013 I'm willing to give you \$25 off your service!

By offering you this deal, I figure we can both win! You can cross off that aggravating item on your to-do list—and I can keep my technicians busy!

Thanks for taking time to read our newsletter!
Have a great rest of your day!

Sincerely,

Shawn Iddings

Iddings Electric, Owner
717-355-9675