



*"A Tradition of Quality"*

### **QUICK ELECTRICAL TIPS AND SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR YOUR NEW HOME:**

1. Please don't use the area in front of your electrical panel for storage. Your panel must be accessible for servicing with a 3 ft working clearance in front of the panel and 30 inch width.
2. Once a year, set all the circuit breakers to the off position. When complete, re-set all the breakers to the on position. This procedure ensures proper functioning of the circuit breakers. If you happen to have any GFCI circuit breakers, the above procedure should be done monthly using the test button on the breaker.
3. Keep electrical floor outlets as well as wall outlets clean from all debris. This will ensure a proper connection when plugging in a cord.
4. Test GFCI receptacles on a regular basis, once a month should be sufficient. These receptacles are located in your bathroom, garage, kitchen and basement. The following steps should be taken when testing your GFCI outlets:
  - a. Push the test button on your GFCI device. The reset button should pop out. This should result in the power being off not only at that GFCI receptacle, but all other outlets being fed off of that GFCI device. To ensure your safety, take a test lamp to that GFCI device and all of the other outlets (if any) fed off this device. The test lamp should be off at all devices.  
**Caution:** If the test lamp goes on while checking any of these outlets, DO NOT use any of the outlets on that GFCI circuit and call Red River Electric, Inc.
  - b. If the GFCI device as well as all the other outlets (if any) tested out okay (your test lamp remained off), restore power by pushing the reset button firmly until it locks and remains depressed. If the GFCI fails to reset properly DO NOT use and call Red River Electric, Inc.
  - c. If a GFCI device trips by itself, reset and perform test procedures a & b above. If reset button does not depress, unplug all appliances on the GFCI circuit and try to reset again. If GFCI resets properly after this, there is a good chance that the cord from one of your appliances or the appliance itself is defective. If your reset button still doesn't depress after all the appliances are unplugged, DO NOT use any of the outlets and call Red River Electric, Inc.

**Note:**

1. All bathroom outlets are on one separate 20 AMP circuit GFCI device.
2. All kitchen outlets are on 2 GFCI devices: these devices are located in the kitchen over your countertops.
3. All weatherproof outlets and garage outlets are on one GFCI device: this device is usually located in the garage or by the panel.
4. Whirlpool tubs: whirlpools are also required to be GFCI protected. Please use the same test procedures from 4a & b above. The GFCI device for your whirlpool is located in the breaker panel.
5. If a loss of power is noticed in a certain area of your home, go to your circuit breaker panel. Look on your panel circuit breaker directory for a room name that coincides with the room that lost power. Try to reset that breaker by setting it first to the fully off position and then setting it to the fully on position. If the breaker fails to reset go unplug any appliances on that circuit and try to reset the breaker again. If the breaker still fails to reset, DO NOT use any of the outlets on that circuit and call Red River Electric, Inc.
6. Flickering recess light fixtures: flickering of recess light fixtures usually happens when the lamp that was installed has a greater wattage than the maximum wattage rating of the fixture. All recess fixtures have a lamp selection chart located in the rough housing of the fixture, please review this chart before lamping any of your recess fixtures. Most recessed fixtures use 65 R 30 lamps.
7. Switched wall outlets: if any of the rooms in your home have switched wall outlets, the bottom half of the outlet will be controlled by the wall switch. The top half of that same outlet will remain energized at all times.
8. Smoke detectors: your home may be equipped with 110-volt smoke detectors. These smoke detectors are all interconnected with each other for your safety. If one detector is activated, all the smoke detectors in your home will sound off. Your smoke detectors are also provided with a test button, which is located directly on the unit. Please test every smoke detector by pressing the button once a month.  
**NOTE:** You may have smoke detectors with the battery back-up feature, if so, you should change the battery on all the smoke detectors at daylight savings time (twice a year) or chirping may occur.
9. Since 2002, new homes have been required to have ARC fault breakers in the panel for the bedroom circuits and should be treated the same as a GFCI.

**PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL RED RIVER ELECTRIC WITH ANY OF YOUR NEEDS OR CONCERNS.**