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Fall 2014

Homes Are Getting Smarter And Smarter

So-called “smart homes” are already with us. You can get your home set up so that lights automatically flicker on and off as people enter and leave rooms. Programmable thermostats can raise and lower the temperature at preset times; a security system can alert fire and police departments of trouble even when you’re not around; a generator can kick in to provide power when there is an outage on the grid.

This part of the future is now, and you can have these marvels if you are willing to spend the money to purchase the equipment and have your home wired to accommodate them. But it’s nothing compared to what’s in store for the not-too-distant future.

Smart homes have been talked about ever since the 1950s, but their promise has been slow in developing. Cost and clunky technology have discouraged all except the very wealthiest people from making their homes as smart as they can be.

That’s starting to change, mainly because of the internet and associated devices like smart phones. Cloud computing has provided the capacity to monitor and control electronic devices from a distance via smart phones. Facial and voice recognition software have become increasingly reliable. Sensors have been miniaturized to the point that many household gadgets are mini-computers.

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Homes Are Getting Smarter And Smarter

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This confluence of technologies makes home automation cheaper and more effective. Devices can communicate with one another. Platforms are being developed that enable doors, locks, light bulbs, and every household appliance imaginable to coordinate their activities with kits that cost only a few hundred dollars. Ovens and microwaves will be programmed to cook your dinner while you travel home from work, ready to eat when you arrive. A company in the Netherlands has developed a [handheld device](#) that enables people to give voice commands from afar to smart appliances in their home.

One of the most important applications for smart home technology is the potential for energy efficiency. Already there are smart phone apps connected to HVAC systems that adjust thermostats depending on whether or not people (and their smart phones) are inside.

Companies like Microsoft and Google are working on apps that tie into the smart grid to automatically ratchet electricity and fuel usage up and down according to need. Soon "smart showers" will be able to recycle water and store profiles for each member of the family according to patterns of usage and water temperature preferences.

According to the research firm ISH Technology, by 2018 the smart home field may grow to a \$12 billion business touching some 45 million homes. Cutting-edge companies like Google are buying firms specializing in smart home technology. Before long, we can all live like Bill Gates when it comes to home electronics.

One thing's for sure. You'll still need an electrician to install the wiring and service an array of smart devices. Our company is doing everything possible to learn about these new technologies and present them to you as options for better living. Call us today for an estimate.

618.988.8731



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Fall Specials



FREE

Home Automation Consultation

One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other coupon or special promotions.

Expires 10/31/2014.



Save \$ 50⁰⁰

Outdoor Lighting Installation

One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other coupon or special promotions.

Expires 10/31/2014.



Only \$ 55⁰⁰

Fall Safety Inspection

One coupon per customer. Not valid with any other coupon or special promotions.

Expires 8/31/2014.

Don't Fall For The Rip-Offs

"We were doing some work in your neighborhood and noticed a problem with your driveway/roof/siding/whatever. Since our guy is already there we can do the repair for a bargain price."

This pitch or some variation is a signature of rip-offs who prey on homeowners, especially the elderly. They commonly show up after storms, often knocking on doors in a neighborhood where homes have been damaged or flooded.

Take it from me, cold-calling like that is not a viable way to market a home repair business. People who operate like that cannot be relied on to do the job right even if they want to, which they probably don't. Most are con artists, plain and simple.

Other signals include high-pressure sales pitches in which they scare you into thinking you or your property is in danger unless you make immediate repairs. They will typically quote an extremely low price but want to be paid upfront with cash. Sometimes the work may involve tearing up a part of your property, after which they leave with a promise to come back and finish the job later, which will not happen.

Be especially wary of two people working in tandem. One may talk to you about the job while the other enters your home looking for valuables. He may ask your permission to use the bathroom or get a drink of water. While you are distracted, he goes through your drawers.

If you encounter any of these characters, call the police immediately.

"Boo" Nana Pops

Ingredients:

- 1 medium banana
- 1 cup white chocolate
- 8 mini chocolate chips
- 4 popsicle sticks

Directions:

1. **Insert** popsicle sticks into bananas, and **freeze** bananas on a wax paper lined cookie sheet.
2. When the bananas are frozen, **fill** a coffee mug with chocolate. **Melt** chocolate in the microwave 30 seconds at a time, **stirring** until the chocolate is melted and soft.
- Dip** the bananas in the chocolate and place it on a cookie sheet lined with wax paper. Quickly **add** the chocolate chips for the eyes before the chocolate hardens.
3. **Return** to the freezer until frozen and ready to eat. **Eat** frozen.

Call Electrical Detectives Any Time!
618.988.8731



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Electrical Detectives
PO Box 190
Energy IL 62933

Halloween Movie Checklist

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hocus Pocus | <input type="checkbox"/> The Curse of the Were-Rabbit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beetle Juice | <input type="checkbox"/> The Little Vampire |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corpse Bride | <input type="checkbox"/> Caroline |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Edward Scissorhands | <input type="checkbox"/> Frankenweenie |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Nightmare Before Christmas | <input type="checkbox"/> Igor |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Casper | <input type="checkbox"/> Monsters, Inc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> The Addams Family | <input type="checkbox"/> Monster House |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Addams Family Values | <input type="checkbox"/> Goosebumps |
| <input type="checkbox"/> It's the Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown | <input type="checkbox"/> The Tower of Terror |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E.T. | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ghostbusters | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ghostbusters 2 | |

See more at: www.tinyurl.com/khrdpme



Call Electrical Detectives Any Time!
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What Are You Thankful For?

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