

COMFORTABLE LIVING

**SERVICE
DETECTIVES**



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Tips For Getting Your Indoor Lighting Right

The luxury of flipping a switch and being immediately flooded with glowing light is a fairly recent development. We've come a long way from reading by candlelight and being limited to work only during daylight.

Bright beginnings

Thomas Edison is the first name that comes to mind when we think of the lightbulb's beginnings but he wasn't the first to come up with a working electric light. In 1802, Humphry Davy used a battery to make carbon glow, called an electric arc lamp. However, it wasn't commercially viable. Edison's incandescent lamp was the first version to become widely available.

Since that time, we've benefitted from numerous types of lighting technology, but three types of bulb are the most

commonly used for residential indoor lighting.

Incandescent

Incandescent lights work by heating a tungsten filament until it glows. It consumes energy to give off heat as well as light, making it inefficient and costly. As part of a movement to lower electricity consumption, governments worldwide are phasing out this bulb in favor of more efficient lighting.

Compact Fluorescent (CFL)

Fluorescent lighting was used in commercial buildings for many years before being adapted for residential use. Using electrodes, a current is passed through some mercury and an inert gas inside a glass tube. This causes them to release ultraviolet light. The tube's inner layer is coated with a phosphor which releases visible light when exposed to the

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My friend told me how electricity is measured,
and I was like Watt!



Tips For Getting Your Indoor Lighting Right *Continued from page 1*

ultraviolet light. This method of lighting does not emit as much heat as the incandescent light and it uses 75 percent less electricity. It also lasts up to ten times longer and the price is comparable.

Light Emitting Diode (LED)

LEDs use a semiconductor to convert electricity into light. Early LED lights were as inefficient as incandescents and were not available in white, limiting their use. Since the 1990's, the technology has grown significantly with improvements in efficiency. Now as the price of this technology drops, they are becoming more feasible for everyday home use. Efficiencies of six to seven times higher than incandescents coupled with a lifespan of up to 25 years have made LED the light of the future.

Getting your consumption down

One of the amazing aspects of the development of new light bulb technology is the increased efficiency available at lower costs. According to the US Department of Energy, switching from incandescent to LED lighting can reduce consumption by as much as 80%.

If you need help getting your lighting right at home or if you have questions about which lights are right for you, give us a call.

Solve the clues to reveal the secret summer answer to the code in the green boxes.

What is the best summertime drink?

1			B	White, fluffy farm animal
2	X			Sign over door
3		O		Orbits the Earth
4			R	Opposite of under
5	E			Bird's _____
6		N		Your parent's sister
7		O		_____bell
8	A			Compass Point

Answer: Lemonade. 1. Lamb, 2. Exit, 3. Moon, 4. Over, 5. Nest, 6. Aunt, 7. Door, 8. East.

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6 Tips For Reducing Your Home's Air Leakage

Wasted energy impacts both your heating and cooling bills so regardless of the season, you'll benefit from tightening up your home's construction. You'll also have more control over allergens and may even prevent outdoor critters from taking residence in the hidden corners of your home. Here are some simple ways you can keep your conditioned air inside and prevent outdoor air from taxing your HVAC equipment.

Replace weather stripping around windows and doors

This is a simple, yet often overlooked task that can help you save on energy bills. You can choose from materials like foam, vinyl, rubber, felt or metals like aluminum or stainless steel.

Seal around lighting

The space above your ceiling is often unheated space. Sealing the space around light fixtures closes the gap for air to enter your room from these unconditioned areas between your ceiling and the structure.

Seal around plugs and plumbing studs

Similarly, the gaps inside your wall may be open to unconditioned spaces like the attic and certain areas of your basement. The openings for your plumbing and electrical outlets can allow unconditioned air to enter, or can cause you to lose precious heated or cooled air. Caulk and seal around these items to minimize air leakage.

Replace window panes

As windows age, the seal around the glass deteriorates,

much like the seal around the window itself. Replace windows before they've reached their end of life or as soon as you notice excessive condensation between glass panes if you have double-glazed glass. Look for windows that are more energy efficient. They may be more expensive but the energy savings will offset the extra cost.



Ensure that you have backdraft dampers installed

Where dryer and fan exhausts exit the building, there's usually a damper that prevents air from entering when the exhaust is off. It allows air to flow in one direction only and protects your home from cold air being blown in during winter. If the damper is missing or damaged, have one installed as soon as possible.

Seal around flue vents, chimneys and other pipes and ducts leaving your house

In addition to preventing air from entering your exhaust ductwork with a damper, you need to ensure there is no space around the duct where air can seep into your house. Seal around these termination points to keep the air out.

Keep in mind that when you seal your home tightly, you still need ways to provide ventilation. If you need help reducing your home's leakage while keeping the fresh air at the right levels, give Service Detectives a call.



Shayna & Jason Shadowen

Proud 3rd Generation owners of Service Detectives

Originally started as Starnes Electric by Shayna's Grandfather, Bill "Red" Starnes, Service Detectives has been trusted for generations.

Hot Smoked Steelhead Trout on Cold Tahini Fettuccine

Steelhead trout is a similar fish to salmon, though milder. Use this Asian twist on the preparation, including serving it hot on cold pasta for an explosion of flavor. The recipe calls for a smoker, but an oven can be used if a smoker is unavailable.



Large Steelhead Trout Fillet, Divided
Into Quarters

1 Cup Teriyaki

1 Package Fettuccine

½ Cup Tahini Paste

⅓ Cup Soy Sauce

⅓ Cup Rice Vinegar

⅓ Cup Sesame Oil

1 Tbsp Sriracha Sauce

½ Cup Shredded Carrots

3 Green Onions, Diced

Rub

4 parts dark brown sugar

2 parts cumin

1 part coarse salt

1 part garlic powder

1 part onion powder

1 part paprika

1 part black pepper

Marinate the fish in teriyaki for at least one hour, up to overnight. Prepare pasta according to directions. Rinse under cold water, until cooled. Blend tahini paste, soy, vinegar, sesame oil, and Sriracha sauce until smooth. Toss with the pasta, carrots, and green onions in large bowl. Refrigerate for at least one hour. Prepare smoker for 220°F. Remove fish from marinade and apply rub. Cook for one hour. Serve hot on a bed of the cold pasta.