

ROUGH and TOUGH
nitty gritty:

Identifying Electrical Issues in Your Home

By Neil Matthews

In this age of DIY, we also need to know where to draw the line on what we should attempt ourselves.

As a professional renovator, one thing that never ceases to amaze me is the dangerous and obvious electrical hazards that we uncover in client homes on a daily basis as a result of poorly carried out, past renovations. I am all for do-it-yourself projects, but electrical is not one of them. I have been renovating for years and I would never attempt to do electrical in my own home, nor would I ever recommend this as a DIY project under any circumstance.

I would like to be very clear on this one. Never let anyone work on the electrical in your home unless they are a licensed, certified electrical contractor.

Always pull an electrical permit so you know that the work will be inspected and no short cuts have been taken, or mistakes made. Electrical and building codes, along with inspections, are not in place to cost you money. They are in place to help preserve life, and in turn will help you protect your investment. Saving a few dollars to do it any other way is just bad practice.

That being said, let's take a look at what you can do as a homeowner to identify possible electrical issues in your home.

Sheldon Lewis, a licensed Certified Journeyman Electrician, and owner/operator of Wedge Electric, offers some advice; a simple visual walk through your home can help you understand a lot about your electrical system.