

# FREE Homeowner Electrical Guide

Trusted Experts in  
Allegheny County &  
Independence, VA

## The Simple Stuff Every Smart Homeowner Should Know

### ✓ Quick & Safe Electrical Tips for Every Homeowner

#### How to Reset a GFCI Outlet

- Bathrooms
- Kitchens
- Outside outlets
- Laundry areas
- Garages
- Basements

- 1 To reset it:**  
**1 Press "RESET"**



- 1 Turn it fully off
- 2 Then flip it back on

#### Types of Light Switches

- Single-Pole ( 1 position)
- Three-Way (2 positions)
- Four-Way (3 positions)

There is no two-way switch

### ⚠ Why LED Bulbs Are Better



### ⚠ Proper Generator Hookup Is Essential

Proper transfer switches prevent backfeed.

Protects backfeed-which protects lineman



Safe



Dangerous

### ✓ GFCI Protection Is Vital

Protects against shock

Death toll has dropped dramatically since GFCIs



#### Surge Protection for the Whole House

Surge protection for the whole House



# FREE Homeowner Electrical Guide

From River Brooks Electric – Trusted Experts in Sparta NC & Independence, VA

## Quick & Safe Electrical Tips for Every Homeowner

### How to Reset a GFCI Outlet

A GFCI (Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter) outlet protects you from shock near water.

Where to look:

- Bathrooms
- Kitchens
- Outside outlets
- Laundry areas
- Garages
- Basements

How to reset:

1. Press the RESET button (usually red or black).
2. If it doesn't reset, press TEST first, then RESET.
3. Still not working? Call River Brooks Electric.

### Why GFCI Matters

GFCIs trip instantly if there's a shock risk. Since being required in wet areas (starting in the 1970s)

Stay safe. Use GFCIs. Replace old outlets.

### How to Reset a Breaker

If your power goes out in a room:

1. Open the breaker panel.
2. Look for any breakers that are between ON and OFF.
3. Turn it fully OFF first. Then switch it back ON.

If it keeps tripping, call River Brooks Electric. 336-572-1246 It could be a serious issue.

### Why LED Bulbs Are Actually Better

- Use up to 85% less energy
- Last years in most homes
- Don't get hot like old bulbs
- Safe and cost-effective

Kelvin Color Temperature:

- 2700K 3000K = Warm White (Soft & cozy)
- 4000K = Cool White (Bright & clean)
- 5000K+ = Daylight (Blue & energizing)

## **Understanding Light Switches**

- Single Pole = 1 switch controls 1 light
- Three-Way = 2 switches control the same light (think hallway/stairs)
- Four-Way = 3+ switches control the same light (more complex)

There is no such thing as a 'two-way' switch in U.S. residential wiring. Let River Brooks Electric sort it out for you.

## **Generator Hookups: What You NEED to Know**

Improper generator hookups can kill a lineman or destroy your home. A 'suicide cord' is illegal and deadly.

Proper hookups include:

- Transfer switch or interlock kits
- Protects your home and prevents backfeeding
- Keeps utility workers safe

River Brooks Electric installs code-compliant generator systems. Stay safe.

336-572-1246      <https://riverbrooks.com>

## **Whole-House Surge Protection**

Lightning or power surges can destroy your:

- HVAC system
- Stove / Oven
- Refrigerator
- EV Chargers

Power strips = OK for TVs & computers, but they don't protect big appliances.

Ask River Brooks Electric about upgrading to whole-home surge protection.

## **Smoke Detectors: Replace Every 10 Years**

They get dusty, worn out, and may not work when you need them most.

Check the date on the back. If it's over 10 years old, replace it. Want smart, interconnected smoke detectors? Call River Brooks Electric.

## **Final Thoughts**

Smart homeowners don't wait until it's too late.

For peace of mind, code-safe electrical work, and fast local service  
Call River Brooks Electric today.

Proudly serving Sparta, NC and Independence, VA.

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336-572-1246