5 Easy Steps to a Safer Home

How to Test AFCIs and GFCIs

In order to provide enhanced protection, your AFCIs and GFCIs need to be functioning properly. Follow these easy steps to test them each month.

1. **GFCI**
   - Push the reset button to prepare the outlet.

2. Plug an ordinary nightlight in and turn it ON. The light should now be on.

3. Push the “test” button. The nightlight should turn OFF.

4. Push the “reset” button again. The nightlight should now go ON again.

5. If the nightlight does not turn off when the “test” button is pushed, contact a licensed electrician to correct the problem.

Open the electrical service panel.

With the breaker’s switch in the ON position, press the TEST button.

It should trip, causing the switch to move to either the OFF position or the TRIP position if the breaker includes one.

If it trips, it is working. Turn it OFF and then ON again to reset.

If it does not trip, contact a licensed electrician to replace it.

In the US, arcing faults cause about 30,000 home fires each year, resulting in hundreds of deaths and injuries and more than $862 million in property damage.**

* Survey conducted by the Consumer Product Safety Commission
** According to the National Fire Protection Association