



Workshop News

"Building Your Home Improvement Skills"

Special Interest!

Classes now offered at
Thornton Rec Center!

"Finally Fixing That Hole"

Tuesday, January 9th
6:30 -8:30 pm

Activity code: **536301**

"My Screws are Loose"

Thursday, January 25th
6:30-8:30 pm

Activity code: **536302**

To register call

720-977-5901

or visit the website

[Thorton Rec Center](#)

Did You Know ?

- * Burning coal is the most common way electricity is made in the United States.
- * The first power plant – owned by Thomas Edison – opened in New York City in 1882.
- * Thomas Edison didn't invent the first light bulb – but he did invent one that stayed lit for more than a few seconds.
- * Thomas Edison invented more than 2,000 new products, including almost everything needed for us to use electricity in our homes: switches, fuses, sockets and meters.

Let There Be Light!

Volts and Amps

How does a homeowner, or someone looking to buy a new home, determine if they have enough electrical power available?

You will need to verify 2 things in your electrical system, the **voltage rating** and the available **amperage**.

Voltage is the amount of electrical *power* available and amperage is the amount of *current* or flow available. If you compare electricity to water, voltage would be the amount of water pressure (think about that shower that has too little water pressure) and amps is the amount of water flowing (think gallons per minute)

How many volts do I need?

Modern homes are built with a 240 volt supply. If you own, or are buying, an older home it may only have 120 volts. If this is the case, unless you plan to live alone and not use many electrical

appliances you will need to upgrade the electrical supply.

How many volts do I have?

To determine the voltage rating of your home, the easiest place to look is your electrical meter. Another option is to look to for the number of wires that enter the conduit attached to your home (if your electrical lines are above ground). 3 wires indicate 240 volts and 2 wires indicates 120 volts. If your electrical supply is below ground you can assume you have 240 volts available.

How many amps do I need?

This questions is not as easy to answer and will depend on the size of your house, the number of electrical appliances and how many people are living in the home. Coupon Code is "NewYear2007" Here are some general guidelines,

your situation may require less or more amperage: *60 amps* for a 3 bedroom house with all gas appliances (dryer, range and water heater)

100 amps for a 4 bedroom house with electrical appliances (dryer, range and water heater)

Note: add 50 amps to the above if central air conditioning is included.

200 amps for homes with electric heat.

How many amps do I have?

If your home has circuit breakers the amperage is typically marked on the "main" breaker usually located at the top of breaker box. If your home has fuses the amperage will be marked on the fuses that are located underneath the fuse block marked "main". A 100 amp system will have 2 fuses each marked 100 amps.

Happy New Year!

We are offering a special gift in celebration of the New Year! This is a special offer for those of you who actually read this newsletter. The first 10 people that register for a class before January 31, 2007 will receive an additional \$10.00 off your total order. (This is in addition to the 10% discount offered when you register for more than one class!) Look for the coupon code somewhere in the text of this newsletter and enter it when you register on-line. So... read the newsletter, find the coupon code and register today!