

## On & Off

Every home should have at least two emergency shut off switches for the furnace/air conditioner. One is



usually located in a hall way and the other is near the furnace. Make sure they are not painted over and that you know where they are. If your heat or air conditioner are not working check these switches first. Sometimes they get moved by grandchildren or the cleaning girls. New ones are available at any hardware store.

If you find that some of your electrical outlets are not working in your garage, kitchen or bathrooms check your ground fault interrupters first. All outdoor, garage, bathroom and most of your



kitchen outlets are on a ground fault interrupter (GFI) circuit. However, they are not always in the same room. There may be one GFI for both bathrooms and the outside outlets are usually protected by the ones in the garage. This may or not be the case so locate all your GFI's so you know where they are. When you find them, test them by pressing the test button and then the reset button.

Did you know there is a light on and off switch for the garage opener light on the garage door opener mounted on your wall? You can press this to turn the light on and off without opening the garage door.



It is the button on the left in the picture.

If you find an electrical outlet or some lighting is not working check your circuit breaker panel . All your breakers should be marked so you know which one controls what. The builder just put general names or none at all so you should find out

which circuits control what and mark them so you will not be fumbling around when one does trip.

Sometimes as they get older they trip for no reason. To reset a breaker push it to all the way to the off position and then back to on. If it continues to trip you either have a bad breaker or a short in something

plugged into that circuit. If it continues to trip after you unplugged everything from that circuit then you need an electrician.

This is a typical breaker panel with all the circuits identified. If one is going in the other direction it has



tripped.

The utility rooms have vents that are not for heat or air conditioning and seem to go nowhere. Do not block these. They are there to supply fresh air for combustion for your dryer, hot water heater or furnace. If you block them not only will your appliances try to pull already heated or cooled air from the house proper but will starve the appliance of

combustion air and make for a sooty flame and possibly damage the appliance.

If you have a humidifier in you duct work, make sure the bypass is open during the heating season or it will not work properly if at all. If you don't close it during the cooling season you won't hurt anything but you will lose some efficiency. If the handle is in line with the duct work, it is open. If it is at a right angle to the duct, it is closed.

