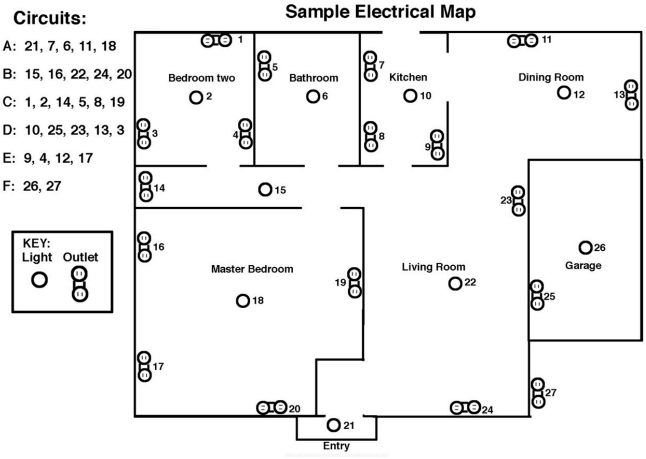
HOMEOWNER REPAIR GUIDE

# CREATING AN ELECTRICAL MAP OF YOUR HOUSE

*To be done during daylight hours*

1. Draw a floor plan for each floor, showing all light fixtures, switches, and outlets.
2. Turn off all circuits at the service panel. Check your meter to make sure it is not turning. Then...
3. Turn on only one circuit.
4. Check all light fixtures, switches, and outlets to see which ones are powered by that circuit. Put a piece of tape over each one that works, and mark it on the floor plan with a number you assign to that circuit.
5. Turn off the circuit you just tested, and turn on another circuit. Repeat the process. Be sure to double-check each switch and outlet you have already identified, in case another circuit is back-feeding power to it.
6. Repeat process until all circuits have been checked, and all switches, outlets, and light fixtures have been identified and numbered on your map.
7. Make a list of your circuits. Then, list the wattage requirement of each light, appliance, etc., that is powered by each circuit. Add the figures to get a total load for the circuit. Check that load against the fuse or circuit breaker size and the wire size for the circuit to see if the load is within safe limits.




*Sample electrical map*

Home Repair Resource Center empowers homeowners to maintain their homes for sustainable and diverse communities.

WWW.HRRC-CH.ORG +1.216.381.6100 2520 Noble Road, Cleveland Heights, OH 44121

© 2026, Home Repair Resource Center