

The electrical field, just like any other field, has its own language. We at Chris' Electrical Service, Inc. realize, that we speak this language all day every day, but our customers may not. This is why we put an Electrical Dictionary together for you, a list of important and frequently used electrical vocabulary. We do not just do the work for you. We want you, our customer, to be on board at all times and know what exactly it is we are doing. By no means is our "Electrical Dictionary" a complete list of things there are to know about electricity and related services and products. It's meant to give you a general overview of words and phrases that you will frequently run into when having electrical work done.

Chris' Electrical Service, Inc.: Our "Electrical Dictionary"

Ballast = A ballast is meant to limit the amount of current in an electric circuit, e.g. in fluorescent lights.

Circuit = Is a continuous path for an electrical current.

Circuit Breaker = An electrical switch to protect against power surges or drains caused by malfunctioning equipment. Circuit breakers are meant to immediately interrupt electrical flow if necessary. You can compare a circuit breaker to a fuse. A fuse, however, needs to be replaced after doing its job, a circuit breaker can be reset.

Conduit = A pipe, tube, or tile intended to protect electric wires or cables.

Fluorescent lamp = Is a gas-discharge lamp that uses electricity to excite mercury vapor. Fluorescent lamps use less power for the same amount of light and last longer compared to incandescent lamps.

Generator = A generator is a machine that produces electric power.

Fixture = A fixture is used to create artificial light.

Fuse = A fuse interrupts electrical currents in case of short circuit, overload or the failure of a device. This way further damage or even fire is prevented.

GFI/GFCI = Stands for Ground Fault (Circuit) Interrupter. This is a device that disconnects a circuit whenever a current to the ground exceeds the values established for a Class A device.

High Voltage = Voltage which is higher than 600 Volts.

Incandescent Lamps = Is the "regular light bulb as we know it", it is a source of electric light that works by incandescence.

(Electric) Meter = This device measures the amount of electrical energy supplied to or produced by a residence, business or machine.

Outlet/Wall Socket/Electric Receptacle = An outlet is the female electrical connector that has slots or holes which accept and deliver current to the prongs of inserted plugs.

Panelboard = Is part of a supply system that divides an electrical power feed into subsidiary circuits while providing a protective fuse or circuit breaker for each circuit, in a common enclosure.

Recessed Light = Recessed lights are light fixtures that are installed into a hollow opening in a ceiling.

Transformer = Is a device that transfers electrical energy from one circuit to another. A transformer is also used to change voltage from one level to another level.

Electrical Measures / Units

Ampere (Amp.) = The measure of electrical current flowing through a wire or piece of machinery. The quantity of electricity is being measured.

Volt/Voltage = The unit of electrical pressure.

Watts = The measure of the amount of energy that's being used.

We read this very clear, easy to understand explanation of electrical measures on WikiAnswers.com and want to share with you: "... To use the water analogy: the size of the hole the water comes out is the "Amps", the amount of pressure behind the hole is the "Volts", and the combination of how much water comes out at a given pressure is "Watts", the measure of how much work can be done."

Sources used for Chris' Electrical Service, Inc. "Electrical Dictionary":

- www.electric-find.com/definitions
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