

# Happy New Year!!!

A WISER, SAFER CHOICE!

## NORTHSTAR ELECTRICAL SERVICES

PENNSYLVANIA \* NEW JERSEY \* DELAWARE

### So...What's All The Fuss About Permits?

As electrical contractors we face this question regularly. "Is a permit *really* necessary for this?" The answer most times is yes! Completing electrical work is not only a risk for us as contractors, but a risk for our customers as well!



#### What requires a permit?

Minor electrical tasks such as changing light bulbs and putting in ceiling fans will *typically* not require a permit. These are tasks many people can do themselves without much prior electrical knowledge. We say "typically" because every township and local municipality varies their requirements of permits. Changing a fluorescent light fixture to LED, for example, is something that requires a permit in some townships but not all.

Major work such as installing/wiring panels or running lengthy new circuits do require permits—particularly in hospitals and nursing homes where special wiring is required. As sign installers, we also regularly obtain zoning and building permits as well to ensure the township approves of the appearance and proposed method of sign installation. Obtaining the necessary permits for such work protects everyone involved in the repairs – contractor and customer alike.

#### What good does a permit do me?

Great question! When electrical permits are required, the township verifies that the contractor applying for said work is a licensed electrician. Qualifications vary by state for this licensure, but generally the electrician is required to pass an exam and obtain credits toward their continuing education annually. In the state of Pennsylvania, any contractor doing work must be a master electrician themselves or doing work under the guidance of a master electrician. We are proud to report that in addition to Northstar's owner, Bill, we have two more technicians that have become master electricians!

Requiring this license ensures that the work being completed is professional and compliant with the current electrical codes. Work is reviewed by the municipality and approved or sent back for modifications to be made. Once the permit is approved by the

township and completed by the contractor, it is required to be inspected. This protects the customer as an added safeguard to make sure everything was completed professionally and safely.

#### I still don't think I want to pull a permit...

While permits cost additional money and time, they are a requirement and should be taken seriously. If a township finds that work is being completed or has been completed without the proper approvals, the customer and contractor could both receive hefty fines. There is also a possibility that the contractor's license could be revoked, especially within that township. Some contractors have even faced jail time!

All in all, while everyone is anxious to get work done quickly and without additional expenses, permits are not only necessary, but worthwhile for both contractors and consumers.



## FREE DINNER

Respond to this email and we will enter you in our drawing for a \$50 gift card to your choice of restaurants or other gift card choice\*. Good luck!

Congratulations to December's Winner:  
**Lisa Marie Lowery**  
Boss Facility Services

Respond by January 15th to be entered.

\* PF Chang's, Maggiano's, Chili's, Cheesecake Factory, The Capital Grille, Legal Seafood, Season's 52, California Pizza Kitchen, Ruth Chris's Steakhouse, Flemings Prime Steakhouse, Home Depot, Barnes & Noble, Nike, Zappos.

Happy Birthday to Matt and happy Northstar anniversary to David and Julie!



Northstar always promotes vehicle safety!



### New Year—New Goals!

What are the most common New Year's Resolutions? Well, it really depends on which article you read. But there are many common ones which probably ring true to most of us:

- Spend more time with family & friends
- Get out of debt
- Lose weight/ get fit
- Quit smoking
- Learn something new
- Get organized
- Enjoy life more
- Travel more



We all want to better ourselves and the New Year seems like the perfect start date. However, if you've set

resolutions in the past, you likely know that most people only hold onto their resolutions for the first few months of the year—if they stick it out that long!

So why do so many people break their resolutions? There are many factors, but we thought it would be helpful to provide a list of key ways to keep your resolution this year!

- Be specific: saying you want to lose weight or save money are ambiguous goals. Giving details helps make it real—and more achievable. So instead, say something more like "I want to save an extra \$5,000 this year".
- Break a big goal into smaller increments: Most people overestimate what they can do in a year. When you break your goal into smaller increments, it makes the smaller ones more attainable which will accumulate into the bigger goal. So based on the previously mentioned goal of saving \$5,000 a year, break that down to save \$417 per month.

1 Year  
=  
365 Opportunities

- Forgive yourself if you don't meet your full goal: If you can accept not meeting your goal on the first time around and forgive yourself, you are more likely to get back up, dust yourself off, and try again!
- Set Deadlines: Along with being specific, setting a deadline will help make your goal real. It will also help you successfully break your goal down into increments (which create milestones!)
- Celebrate Success: Don't wait until the end of the year to take pride in your accomplishments. If you saved an extra \$20 this week, that is cause for celebration! Remember to congratulate yourself along the way!

**Good luck!!!!**