

Outdoor Receptacles and Light Fixtures

This is a wide ranging subject with many possibilities. I will try to treat each briefly below in no particular order of priority.

Receptacle connected to GFI breaker keeps tripping under any load

This indicates a short in the system, possibly at the receptacle end or also at the electrical panel if the GFI breaker is installed improperly. This was the case in one Cardinal Glen house recently and when the GFI breaker was wired properly, everything worked just fine.

Outside Light doesn't turn on and/or flips breaker at electrical panel

This is almost certainly a short at the light, often caused by water leakage into the electrical box where the connections have been made. The fix is to turn off the power on that circuit; remove the fixture; test the leads with a meter to confirm power at the box; rewire or replace fixture; caulk around box to prevent further water leakage.

Compact Fluorescent bulb in outside fixture only lights at very bottom

Remove bulb and bring it indoors. Invert bulb (upside down) for several hours to allow gasses inside to redistribute evenly. Reinstall bulb.

Compact fluorescent bulb does not work with photo cell assembly

There is a special type of compact fluorescent bulb required to operate in conjunction with a photo cell on-off unit. Normal bulbs don't work.

Fluorescent bulb light doesn't work in garage in winter

To operate a fluorescent unit in a garage requires a "cold start" type unit. Even these are not reliable below minus 20 degrees Celsius.