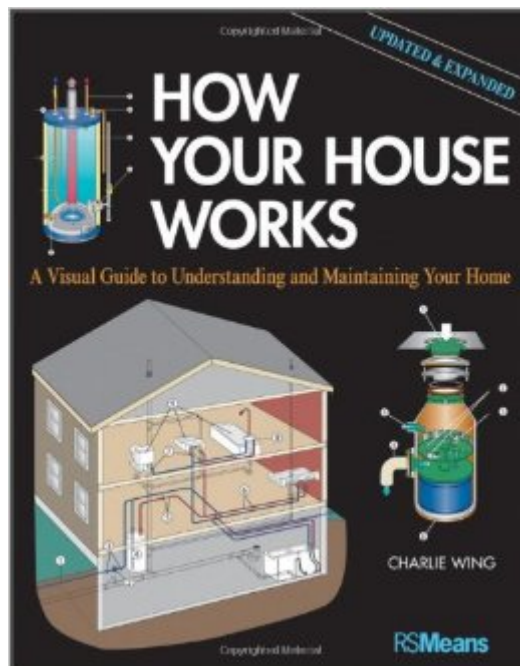


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# How Your House Works: A Visual Guide To Understanding And Maintaining Your Home, Updated And Expanded



## Synopsis

Understand how to maintain everything in your home—including the kitchen sink. *How Your House Works, Second Edition* reinforces the fact that it pays to be an informed consumer. Knowledge of your home's systems helps you control repair and construction costs and makes sure the correct elements are being installed or replaced. *How Your House Works* uncovers the mysteries behind just about every major appliance and building element in your house. Clear, full-color drawings show you exactly how these things should be put together and how they function, including what to check if they don't work. Covering topics such as electrical systems, heating and air conditioning, plumbing, major household appliances, foundation, framing, doors, and windows, this updated Second Edition has considerable additional information, with new chapters related to sustainability in and outside the house, as well as new topics, including clock thermostats, ventless gas heaters, moisture and mold, and passive solar heating. Illustrated guidance on electrical systems, heating and air conditioning, plumbing, major household appliances, foundation, framing, doors, and windows. Includes a wealth of additional information, with new chapters related to sustainability and outside the house. Features new topics that include clock thermostats, ventless gas heaters, moisture and mold, LED lamps, motion-activated light switches, and passive solar heating. Presented in a richly illustrated with full-color drawings. With see-through, cross-section drawings that show you how things are put together and how they function, *How Your House Works* supplies you with the knowledge that just might save you having to call in a professional.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

What's problematic about DIY guides is that they're either much too technical for the laymen it

purports to be written for, or the text leans to the other end of the spectrum and ends up an overly-simplified outline of the subject, never quite diving deep enough into the material. "How Your House Works" falls into the latter category, as the text covers a wide range of material but never rests long enough on one topic to be of much use. The subtitle "A visual guide to understanding and maintaining your home" is also somewhat misleading because the book offers much more in the way of 'understanding' and precious little in the way of 'maintaining'. However, the book is wonderfully packed with illustrations detailing how several dozen devices within your home operate. The maintenance and troubleshooting suggestions are relegated to a box on the side of the page. The material within those boxes range from utterly useless to reasonably helpful. While I can understand how a dishwasher works, that still leaves me far from knowing how to maintain one. The brief tips on troubleshooting and maintenance are often helpful only to a small degree. The text recommends dishwasher owners periodically "Remove the spray arms and clean the spray holes" without offering help as to exactly how to clean them. There are a myriad of ways to do this, with some methods being significantly more effective than others, and the text often lacks clear detail in these areas. Other tips are even less helpful, such as "Make sure you are using dishwasher detergent, not dishwashing detergent". If that's your problem, toss the book in the trash and leave your home maintenance/repair to your local repair shops. In fact, perhaps you should hand wash your dishes.

"I'm convinced that most of today's homeowners live in a perpetual state of anxiety. While school has taught us math, foreign languages, and computer sciences, most of us have no idea how our furnace, refrigerator, or even kitchen faucet works. This is an expensive omission in our educations." "In metropolitan areas, the minimum charge for a plumber or appliance repairperson to come to your home is about \$150. In fact repair services are now so expensive that the leading consumer magazine recommends replacing, rather than repairing, appliances over five years old. Why don't more people attempt simple repairs themselves?" "Why indeed! With this simple and straightforward beginning, I was hooked. When many of the household appliances and equipment that we use on a day-to-day basis appear to be too complicated to comprehend, we instead call Joe the Plumber for even simple problems. However, many appliances only give the APPEARANCE of being complicated because this is our knee-jerk assumption from not understanding how they work. Enter "How Your House Works: A Visual Guide to Understanding and Maintaining Your Home" by Dr. Charlie Wing. Inside you see informative drawings of how your hydronic (i.e. piping), electrical, and HVAC (i.e. heating & cooling) systems work in your house as well as the appliances

and equipment that connect into these systems such as sinks, water heaters, light switches, furnace filters, ceiling fans, and more. In addition, there are also sections on "Windows & Doors", "Foundation & Frame" (i.e. how your home is built structurally), "Outdoors" (which includes such items as 2- and 4-cycle motors, lawn mowers, and chain saws) and lastly "Toward Sustainability" (which gets into specifics about lowering your utility bills and living greener).

This book was exactly what I was looking for. I've been a homeowner for 17 years and I'm by NO means a DIY expert. But, I am more than willing to try to figure something out myself and THEN call a professional if I screw it up too badly. Thankfully, those times have been far and few between. I don't do electrical stuff, I leave that up to my husband who was trained in the Navy how to do that stuff. But will I take out an old sink and put in a new one while my husband is at work? You betcha. And yes, the sink works perfectly, not a drip or clog in sight. Have I knocked down the walls to our foyer closet because I was sick of the kids throwing all of their crap in there and never shutting the doors correctly (which were the 70's style sliding doors that were always falling off of their tracks anyway). Yes, yes I have done that. Now we have a much more open foyer and a nice, neat place to put shoes, book bags and jackets, thanks to my - - willingness to learn new things. However, in my creative endeavors around the house, there have been times where I really needed a clear, easy-to-follow, well illustrated and straight to the point guide to help me understand what exactly was behind the wall I was getting ready to knock down. I bought a few books, I looked stuff up on the internet, etc. It got really confusing and I often got distracted by other clutter online and we ended up sleeping in a film of drywall dust that night. This book is perfect for my needs. It has simple pictures and diagrams on how things work. Things like your garbage disposal, hot water heater, basic plumbing, what happens when you flush the toilet (and why the stuff might be coming back OUT instead of DOWN), etc.

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