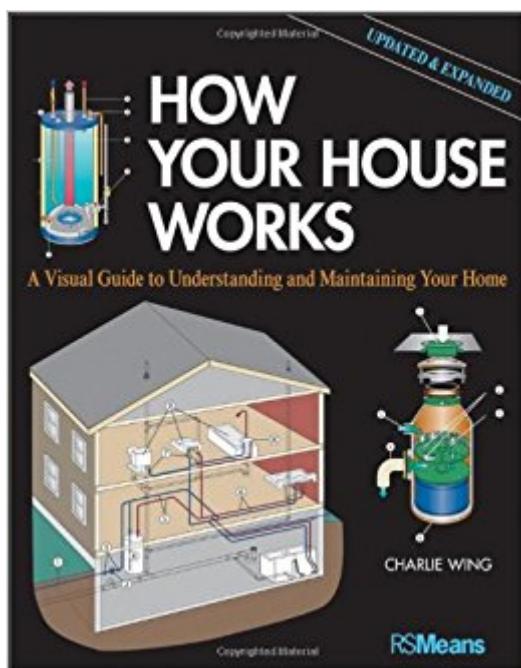


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# How Your House Works: A Visual Guide To Understanding And Maintaining Your Home, Updated And Expanded



## 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

An easy-to-understand, richly illustrated guide to how everything in a house works Why is my faucet

leaking, my toilet running, or my dishwasher refusing to start? Can I fix it myself? What's causing the heating system to smell bad or the foundation to crack? Do I need an air filtration system? Is the new "engineered lumber" as good as conventional wood? These are just a few examples of questions homeowners face when repairs are needed or when a new house or addition is being planned. This new edition of *How Your House Works* uncovers the mysteries behind just about every major appliance and building element in your house. Clear "exploded" drawings show you exactly how these things should be put together and how they function—what to check if they don't work, and what you can do that might save you from calling in a professional. The easy-to-understand pictures and explanations on every page get right to the point, helping you understand how things work, what can go wrong, and how to troubleshoot a problem. Virtually everything in your house is included: Electrical—circuit breakers and grounding, service, outlets, lamps, and fixtures Heating and air conditioning—gas, electrical, and oil, ductwork and piping, thermostats, central and window AC units, humidifiers and dehumidifiers, and air filtering systems Plumbing—kitchen and bath fixtures, piping, water heaters, traps and vents, septic tanks, and pumps and water softener systems (even sprinkler systems and swimming pool filters/heaters) Major household appliances—from kitchen to laundry Foundation, framing, doors, and windows—including issues like drainage and radon, types of framing and how it supports the house, and all types of doors and windows Sustainability and beyond—covers sustainability and issues outside the house, as well as clock thermostats, ventless gas heaters, moisture and mold, and passive solar heating This quick and easy guide will save you time and money, answer nagging questions, and help you keep your house running smoothly.

The author of more than twenty books on home repair and improvement, Charlie Wing is perhaps the most credible house-building teacher in the world. His writing and illustrations make complex home issues understandable. An MIT graduate, he developed and hosted a national PBS energy conservation series, *Housewarming with Charlie Wing*, and served as primary editorial developer for Home Depot's branded 1-2-3 books.

Anyone who can follow this book doesn't need it. Great illustrations &—superficial discussion.I am a retired Mechanical Engineer and general handyman. I build furniture and have drawn up plans for two houses, so I probably have more knowledge than the average homeowner, yet I found this book lacking in substance and difficult to follow.I am now in my 70s and this book

looked like a great reference for my wife who statistically should outlive me. With so many great illustrations, I thought that it would be a great way to answer many of the questions that she has started asking as the reality of our age and mortality becomes more real every day. Personally, just having the illustrations is advantageous to me. If I know how something is constructed, I can usually fix it. I had hoped for more. The first section of the book covered plumbing. The only thing that I was interested in is the venting system. We had a house some years ago that would vent sewer gases through the roof vents from time to time. I was never able to identify the source of the problem. We had several plumbers come to the house but they were just as mystified as we were. I hoped that this book might give me a clue about this problem. It did not. What really surprised me was the text that accompanied the illustration of the venting system. It was more gibberish than any thing else. I re-read several sentences three or four times before I finally accepted that this author is incapable of explaining anything. As I continued to read the book, this lack of information proved to be the norm rather than the exception. The book needs at least three or four times as many illustrations and clear identification of how things are assembled and the function of each part if it is to have any relevance to the average homeowner. One Star might seem a bit harsh for such a wonderfully illustrated book but a collection of illustrations does not make a How-To book.

Very good reference material stated in layman terms. Gives you a chance to understand the basics of what is in your house and how it is supposed to function.

This is an excellent reference for someone getting to know the home as a sum of parts. I bought this for friends who recently bought a new home and do not have construction experience. This text is an excellent overview and I would recommend it for anyone who wants to more intimately understand your home. It does not include specific maintenance procedures, so an ideal combo would be this book and Youtube searches for specific questions.

Great informative book. I moved into a house from a condo and this really helped in giving me overall knowledge about the layout of a house including plumbing, electrical, sewer, etc.

Beautiful graphics, but a lot of information about how stuff works that the average homeowner would NEVER attempt to work on.

Wonderful! We purchase one of these for every single family client we work with. And our team has

learned a lot from it too.

Good book

This is a must for homeowners- my husband loves it.

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