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Popping globes – What is the major cause?

In most homes there can be found 20-40 power outlets. But there may only be 4-8 circuits in the home. To see how many “circuits” you have simply go to your power box and count how many circuit breakers there are. If you go and count the number of power outlets you have and divide them into the number of circuits you have you will find the average amount of outlets on each circuit. You will quickly find that a single circuit will have between 4-8 power outlets. Some of these circuits will contain a large energy hungry appliance that causes the voltage to momentarily ‘spike’ on that circuit. These “spikes” in the electricity flow, cause globes to ‘pop’.

Appliances that typically pop globes are: Electric Kettle, Refrigerator, Dishwasher, Large Screen TV, Washing Machine and Dryers. Sometimes even a ducted gas heater, air conditioning unit or evaporative cooling unit can be the culprit.

On these shared circuits the offending appliance causes a sharp momentary increase in the voltage supply which causes the tiny tungsten filament in the globe to overheat in a millisecond causing it to fail. Unfortunately this is an unavoidable occurrence due to the fragile nature of tungsten filament globes when they have been on for awhile.

Many years ago when we used tungsten filament ceiling globes we did not have this issue as the lighting circuit was stand alone and did not share the power outlets. So globes popping were not an issue back then. Only in the last 20 or so years that we have been using more table lamps that share the wall circuits that globes consistently pop if they use incandescent Tungsten filament globes.

Why do we use Tungsten filament globes? Because the globes not only produce light, but they produce WARMTH, which is the key ingredient why salt lamps function as they do. Without the warming element of the globe the lamp would simply not function as it is intended. But as the filament is hot inside the globe, it becomes vulnerable to power spikes.

If you have globes that pop continually, then the best solution is to try and find a power outlet that does not share the circuit with appliances that spike the voltage supply. But if all else fails, just have a ready stock of replacement globes available and be prepared to change them monthly.

Please note: Globes sometimes cause a small ‘spark’ inside the globe when they fail and due to the sensitive nature of our modern circuit breakers the circuit will switch off. This is not dangerous, but it can be inconvenient.

Cables: In generally, the cables themselves are not at fault as they are a simple ON/OFF circuit where they either work or they don’t. But on very rare occasions a small amount of salt from inside the lamp could get into the globe holder housing and pop the circuit. This is when you need to obtain a new globe holder assembly that is IP64 compliant to ensure any salt dust does not get into the globe holder itself.